

February 28, 2019

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW Ste B255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: FOIA Case No. 2018-FPRO-01291

Dear Mr. Evers:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated August 29, 2018, in which you seek access to Postal Service records. Please accept our apologies for the delayed response. Specifically, you requested:

1. All processing notes related to any FOIA request—including the release of responsive records—filed by America Rising, the Congressional Leadership Fund, or any other individual or entity, regarding Abigail Spanberger and her work history, personnel forms, and security clearance processing forms, including the SF-86.
2. All processing notes related to any Privacy Act request—including the release of responsive records—regarding Abigail Spanberger and her work history, personnel forms, and security clearance processing forms, including the SF-86.
3. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, voicemail transcripts, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Twitter Direct Messages, or Signal), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) related to any FOIA request filed by America Rising, the Congressional Leadership Fund, or any other individual or entity, regarding Abigail Spanberger and her work history, personnel forms, and security clearance processing forms, including the SF-86.

Generally, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires government agencies to disclose reasonably described "records" within their possession unless the records fall within one or more of several exemptions. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3), (b)(1)-(9).

We located 665 pages of responsive records to your request. Three hundred and thirty-nine pages are being withheld in their entirety under FOIA exemption 3 in conjunction with 39 U.S.C § 410(c)(2), 5, and 6 and some of the information on 187 pages are also being withheld under FOIA exemption 3, in conjunction with 39 U.S.C § 410(c)(2), 5 and 6. One hundred and thirty-nine pages are being released in full.

Exemption 3 provides that agencies may withhold records that are exempted from disclosure by another statute that "establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3). We consider that 39 U.S.C. § 410(c)(2) operates independently as an exempting statute within the scope of Exemption 3.

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Rm. 1P830
Washington DC 20260-1101
(202) 268-2608
FAX: (202) 268-5353

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

Section 410(c)(2) of Title 39, U.S. Code, provides that "information of a commercial nature, including trade secrets, whether or not obtained from a person outside the Postal Service, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed" is exempt from the disclosure requirements of the FOIA. This section was enacted as part of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. § 101 et seq., (1970), which established the Postal Service as an independent establishment of the executive branch and generally directed it to conduct its operations in accordance with sound business principles.

To determine what constitutes "good business practice" under § 410(c)(2), courts consider the customs of the commercial world, management techniques, and business law, as well as the standards of practice adhered to by large corporations. The Postal Service may withhold information of a commercial nature if large businesses would do the same. It would not be good business practice to release the requested information, and private businesses would not release information of this nature to the public.

Exemption 5 permits withholding inter-agency or intra-agency letters or memorandums that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the U.S. Postal Service. The purpose of this exemption is to encourage open, frank discussion on matters of policy between agency personnel; to protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies before they are finally adopted and to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of reasons and rationales that were not in fact ultimately the grounds for an agency's action.

Exemption 6 permits agencies to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Any records, which contain information concerning particular individuals, may qualify for the exemption's protection.

In determining whether to release records that may be protected by Exemption 6, the agency must balance the privacy interests of the individuals involved against the public interest, if any, that would be served by disclosure. We do not consider that there is a public interest in the disclosure of the requested information sufficient to outweigh the privacy interests of the individual involved. For the purposes of FOIA Exemption 6, the only public interest to be weighed is the extent to which disclosure would serve the "core purpose" of the FOIA, which is to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, or, in other words, to shed light on the conduct of government agencies.

We considered your request in light of the statement in your letter that the requested information was previously released to another requester. The Postal Service deeply regrets our mistake in releasing Mrs. Spanberger's OPF to a third-party, which occurred because of human error. We take full responsibility for this unfortunate error, and we have taken immediate steps to ensure this will not happen again. Nonetheless, we do not consider that the Postal Service waives its use of FOIA exemptions when an agency official makes an entirely mistaken disclosure of information.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may file an administrative appeal within 90 days of the date of this response letter by writing to the General Counsel U.S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260 or via email at FOIAAppeal@usps.gov. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request. The letter of appeal should include, as applicable:

- (1) A copy of the request, of any notification of denial or other action, and of any other related correspondence;
- (2) The FOIA tracking number assigned to the request;
- (3) A statement of the action, or failure to act, from which the appeal is taken;
- (4) A statement identifying the specific redactions to responsive records that the requester is challenging;

- (5) A statement of the relief sought; and
- (6) A statement of the reasons why the requester believes the action or failure to act is erroneous.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact any of the following:

- Janine Castorina
Chief Privacy and Records Management Officer
Phone: (202) 268-3069
- Privacy & Records Management Office
US Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 1P830
Washington, DC 20260-1101
Phone: (202) 268-2608
Fax: (202) 268-5353
- Jane Eyre
FOIA Public Liaison
Phone: (202) 268-2144

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Janine Castorina
Chief Privacy and Records Management Officer

Enclosure

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FOLDER

(SEPARATED EMPLOYEE)

1. DATE OF REQUEST

7/9/2018

SECTION I - TO BE COMPLETED BY REQUESTING PERSONNEL OFFICE

2. CURRENT NAME (Last, first, middle)

SPANBERGER, ABIGAIL

3. DATE OF BIRTH (mm/dd/yyyy)

(b)(6)

4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

(b)(6)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
(Civilian Personnel Records)
1411 Boulder Boulevard
Valmeyer, IL 62295-2603

(b)(6)

ONE FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH FOLDER REQUESTED. REQUESTS MAY BE FAXED OR MAILED TO THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER.

5. PREVIOUS FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

AGENCY AND BUREAU	LOCATION	FROM	TO
USPS	WASHINGTON DC	1/24/2004	7/6/2006 ✓

6. REASON FOR REQUEST (Check appropriate box.)

☐ a. Currently employed.☐ b. Temporary use.☐ c. Pre-employment consideration. Will retain folder if hired.

7. Remarks

SECTION II - FOR USE BY RECORDS CENTER

☒ a. Paper OPF Folder shipped.☐ h. Folder was sent (Date)

To:

☐ b. eOPF Folder transmitted.☐ c. eOPF Paper Copy shipped.☐ d. Paper / eOPF (Circle one or both) record/s restricted. Transcript of Service will be sent☐ Your Agency☐ e. Our search did not reveal a Paper OPF or eOPF record for the civilian Federal employment claimed.☐ I. Other/details☐ f. Paper OPF Folder not located. For a former employee of your agency, we suggest a further search of your agency. If still unlocated, verify name, date of birth and social security number, and return request to NPRC together with the date folder was transferred to NPRC and several names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of other folders in same shipment.☐ g. Our search found evidence of a Paper OPF folder that has not been received by this center. Suggest that you contact the last employing office.DATE
7/16/2018

INITIALS

WT

SECTION III - TO BE COMPLETED BY REQUESTING PERSONNEL OFFICE

FULL NAME OF REQUESTING AGENCY (INCLUDE SUB AGENCY)

NAME OF REQUESTER

TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code)

AGENCY RECORD GROUP

AGENCY CHARGE ACCOUNT

EXT

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
GENERAL MANAGER
CORPORATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW, ROOM 1831
WASHINGTON DC 20260-4261

Enter complete
address to which folder
or reply is to be mailed.
Include ZIP Code.



REPLY TO INQUIRY (NCP)

DATE:

7/12/2018

SUBJECT:

SPANBERGER, ABIGAIL

Your Reference

Date of Inquiry:

The answer to your inquiry is furnished below. This abbreviated form of reply has been adopted as a means of supplying information in a timely manner.

The Freedom of Information Act does allow certain information to be released without the written consent of the individual. The following information is releasable to the public:

Name
Past and present positions.
Past and present salaries (performance awards).
Past and present grades.
Past and present agencies and locations.

The United States Postal Service retains custody of all personnel folders of prior employees. Therefore, we are forwarding the OPF, along with all documents of your request, to the following address. There, they will review and handle your request.

United States Postal Service
General Manager
Corporate Personnel Management
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 1831
Washington DC 20260-4261

WT

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

☐ Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

☒ Civilian Personnel Records
1411 BOULDER BLVD.
VALMEYER, IL 62295

AMERICA RISING CORPORATION
1500 WILSON BLVD 5TH FLR
ARLINGTON VA 22209

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

NA FORM 13018 (9-85)

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

USPS-18-0502-A-000002

W

AMERICA RISING

CORPORATION

2018 JUL -9 PM 2: 59

1500 Wilson Boulevard, 5th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209

July 9, 2018

VIA FAX: (618) 935-3014

National Personnel Records Center
1411 Boulder Boulevard
Valmeyer, IL 62295

To whom it may concern:

This is a request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description. To facilitate the agency's search, below is additional information concerning Ms. Spanberger:

Full name: Abigail Anne Davis Spanberger
Date of birth: (b)(6)
SSN: (b)(6)
Agency: U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Date of Service: 2002-2006 (approx.)

For fee purposes, America Rising should be categorized as an "all other" requester in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(III). America Rising intends to inform the public about the existence and content of any disclosed records, which concern the qualifications of a candidate for Congress. America Rising is not making this request on behalf of any client, nor does it intend to use the records for financial gain. See, e.g., ARCHIVE, www.americarisingarchive.com (America Rising's document library).

America Rising agrees to pay applicable fees up to \$25.00. To reduce the burden of production, America Rising will accept records electronically or double-sided copies.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Vice President, FOIA Operations

(b)(6)

FAX

Date: 07/09/2018

Pages including cover sheet: 2

To:	
Phone	
Fax Number	(b)(6)

From:	America Rising
	America Rising
	1500 Wilson Blvd
	Arlington
	VA 22209
Phone	(b)(6)
Fax Number	

NOTE:

FOIA request



July 30, 2018

America Rising Corporation
1500 Wilson Blvd 5th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209-2458

USPS Tracking Number 9114901496451615068011

Re: Official Personnel Folder for Abigail Spanberger

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find enclosed the entire Official Personnel Folder (OPF) for Abigail Spanberger (b)(6)

Thank you,

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:20 PM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Cc: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Subject: FOIA Request

Importance: High

Pamela,

I'm trying to track down information about a FOIA request that may have been sent out by your office on July 30, 2018. The request may have been from an organization called American Rising and pertaining to a Ms. Spanberger. Do you know anything such a request?

If so, can you please send me copies of: the request, the response to the request, the records that were released to the requester? Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Jane Eyre
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:50 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Cc: Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC; Storey, Simon M - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: FOIA Request

Good Morning Nancy,

Pam is in the process of making a copies of the documents and will forward shortly.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

From: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:36 AM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD (b)(6)
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(6)
Subject: FOIA Request
Importance: High

Pamela,

Per our phone conversation this morning, can you please send us the letter and documents ASAP, we have received two congressional inquiries this morning on this issue.

General Counsel and VP Tom Marshall would also like to see what was requested and release. Once we receive the information from you or your office, we will forward it to him and media relations.

Thank you,

Nancy Chavannes-Battle
Senior Government Information Specialist
US Postal Service

(b)(6)

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:20 PM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD (b)(6)
Cc: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(6); Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(6)

Subject: FOIA Request

Importance: High

Pamela,

I'm trying to track down information about a FOIA request that may have been sent out by your office on July 30, 2018. The request may have been from an organization called American Rising and pertaining to a Ms. Spanberger. Do you know anything such a request?

If so, can you please send me copies of: the request, the response to the request, the records that were released to the requester? Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Jane Eyre

Deputy Chief FOIA Officer

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: OPF-FOIA
Attachments: OPF1.pdf, OPF2.pdf, OPF3.pdf

Enclosed is the documents requested.

Pamela J. Gabriel

(b)(6)

*FOIA/PA/INITS Notice: This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed and may contain confidential and privileged information protected by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of these e-mails is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies from your system.

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:56 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: OPF FOIA
Attachments: OPF4.pdf; OPF6.pdf

Enclosed is the documents requested.

Pamela J. Gabriel 1

(b)(6)



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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: OPF-FOIA
Attachments: OPF5.pdf

Pamela J. Gabriel |

(b)(6)

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:07 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA

The original request is the document titled OPI 1.

Pamela J. Gabriel |

(b)(6)

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From: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD (b)(6) Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
(b)(6)
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(6) Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA

Pamela,

Can you also send us the original request?

Thank you.

Nancy Chavannes-Battle
Senior Government Information Specialist
US Postal Service

(b)(6)

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(6) Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
(b)(6)

Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(6)

Subject: OPF-FOIA

Enclosed is the documents requested.

Pamela J. Gabriel |

(b)(6)

Only the information requested is being transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed and may contain confidential or otherwise privileged information protected by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of these e-mails is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies from your system.

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Cc: Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA
Attachments: OPF Ltr.pdf

To Nancy,

I have enclosed the letter that I sent out with the OPF.

Pamela J. Gabriel

(b)(6)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed, and may contain confidential and privileged information protected by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies from your system.

From: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD (b)(6)
Cc: Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC (b)(6)
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Pamela,

I know last week you sent me all the information that was sent out to America Rising; however, you did not send me your letter that you sent with the records. We have a request asking for the original request (which I have) and your letter. So, I need to review the letter before sending anything out. We will redact your name and any other privacy issues listed in that letter.

Thank you,

Nancy Chavannes-Battle
Senior Government Information Specialist
US Postal Service

(b)(6)

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:07 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(6)
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA

The original request is the document titled OPF1.

Pamela J. Gabriel |

(b)(6)

FOIA REQUESTS NOTICE: This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual(s) named to whom they are addressed, and may contain confidential and/or privileged information protected by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete it from your system.

From: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD <(b)(6)>; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
(b)(6)
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(6); Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: OPF-FOIA

Pamela

Can you also send us the original request?

Thank you,

Nancy Chavannes-Battle
Senior Government Information Specialist
US Postal Service

(b)(6)

From: Gabriel, Pamela J - Laurel, MD
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(6); Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
(b)(6)
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(6)
Subject: OPF-FOIA

Enclosed is the documents requested.

Pamela J. Gabriel |

(b)(5)

This document contains information that is exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is being provided to you for your information only and is not to be distributed outside your organization. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not disseminate, distribute, or copy this information. If you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies of this information from your system.

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:01 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Cc: Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Thank you!

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:54 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Cc: Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Will do
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 5:48 PM, Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:44 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:17 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC; Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC; Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC; Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5):(b)(6)

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:11 PM

To: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E -
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Nothing is coming up right away in our FOIA Tracking System, but I'll do some further searching to see what I can find out.

Jane

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:02 PM

To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

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The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:28 PM
To: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC; Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC; Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC; Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Thanks!

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

FYI. So far the FOIA cannot locate this FOIA.

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president.

But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

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She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(6)
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:13 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC; Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC; Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC; Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Thanks Janine. I have copied Janice Walker and Jeff Adams on this email.

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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

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(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(6)

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Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:17 PM
To: Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Date: August 28, 2018 at 7:13:25 PM EDT

To: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Cc: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

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"Chavannes-

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She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(4);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:20 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Right...after reading the article

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Date: 8/28/18 7:10 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); "Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); "Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); "Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She

demanding that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program.

One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a

school funded by the Saudi royal family that had “numerous students arrested for terrorism,” Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master’s degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor’s maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

“It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant,” said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger’s complaint and urging caution.

“This is an official government document that only President Trump’s administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form,” Mr. Luján said.

“To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger’s document in the first place,” Mr. Luján said. “But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling.”

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. “As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing,” said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. “In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic.”

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From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Castorina, Janine -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:23 PM
To: Brennan, Megan J - Washington, DC; Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC; Cottrell, Guy J
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Thomas J. Marshall
General Counsel and Executive Vice President United States Postal Service

From: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Date: August 28, 2018 at 7:13:25 PM EDT

To: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" <Jane.G.Eyre@usps.gov> (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E -

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC"

"Chavannes-

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Walker, Janice

D - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Adams,

Jeffery A - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION Thanks Janine. I have copied Janice Walker and Jeff Adams on this email.

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:11 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

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Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

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(b)(3) 39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Childs, Stephanie S - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:25 PM
To: Meyers, Sheila T - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

FYI

From: Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:18 PM
To: Childs, Stephanie S - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Ray, Christine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

(b)(5)

On Aug 29, 2018, at 7:11 PM, Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stephenson, Mark"

(b)(6)

Date: August 29, 2018 at 6:40:49 PM EDT

To: Ron Stroman (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

FYI – This just went out to press.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2018

CONNOLLY: Collin Davenport

(b)(6)

CUMMINGS: Aryele Bradford

(b)(6)

Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request IG Investigation into Postal Service's Reported Release of Congressional Candidate's SF-86 and Personnel File

Washington, D.C.—Today, Vice Ranking Member Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, sent a letter to the Acting Inspector General for the United States Postal Service requesting an investigation into the Postal Service's reported release of a former employee and current Congressional candidate's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86). Press reports indicate that the unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and personnel file of Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth of Virginia's 7th Congressional District, was released by the Postal Service to a conservative PAC through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Ms. Spanberger, an ex-CIA officer, is also a former employee of the Postal Service. The personal information obtained through the FOIA request was subsequently used by a Super PAC working against Ms. Spanberger.

"We write to request that your office conduct an investigation into the reported release by the United States Postal Service of a former employee's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and any other related personal information that was released in violation of privacy statutes and other laws and regulations," the Ranking Members wrote.

They also wrote,

"The release of Ms. Spanberger's unredacted SF-86 to any individual or entity without her permission in violation of the law would call into question the Postal Service's processes for responding to FOIA requests."

The Members requested that the Office of the Inspector General address at least the following questions:

- (1) Did anyone at the Postal Service disclose Ms. Spanberger's SF-86? If so, who and what were the circumstances of the disclosure?
- (2) Did the disclosure of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 or any other documents provided under America Rising's FOIA request violate any laws, regulations, or policies governing disclosure of such materials?
- (3) What, if any, information provided under America's Rising's FOIA request should not have been provided?
- (4) Why did the Postal Service not seek a privacy waiver from Ms. Spanberger before releasing her personnel file and SF-86 pursuant to a FOIA request?
- (5) Were any individuals in the Postal Service who handled America Rising's FOIA request aware of Ms. Spanberger's candidacy for Virginia's 7th Congressional District or the political nature of America Rising's request?
- (6) Does the Postal Service have adequate procedures in place to process FOIA requests and prevent disclosure of protected information?
- (7) What actions, if any, has Postal Service management taken to prevent unauthorized and impermissible disclosures of such information in the future?

The full letter follows and is available here<https://connolly.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2018-08-29.EEC_Connolly_to_USPS_OIG_re_SF86_Disclosure.pdf>.

August 29, 2018

Ms. Tammy L. Whitcomb
Acting Inspector General

United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street
Alexandria, VA 22209-2029

Dear Acting Inspector General Whitcomb:

We write to request that your office conduct an investigation into the reported release by the United States Postal Service of a former employee's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and any other related personal information that was released in violation of privacy statutes and other laws and regulations.

On August 28, 2018 the New York Times reported that the Congressional Leadership Fund, a political action committee (PAC), obtained the federal security clearance application, SF-86, of Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth of Virginia's 7th Congressional District.[1] Press reports indicate that an unredacted copy of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 was obtained by America Rising, a political research firm, through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Postal Service, which then shared it with the PAC. It was also reported that the Postal Service provided America Rising with Ms. Spanberger's entire personnel file.[2] It is unclear whether any of these disclosures conformed with laws and regulations including FOIA or the Privacy Act.

The release of Ms. Spanberger's unredacted SF-86 to any individual or entity without her permission in violation of the law would call into question the Postal Service's processes for responding to FOIA requests. We request that your office investigate the Postal Service's role in the release of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 and related personnel information and, at a minimum, address the following questions:

- (1) Did anyone at the Postal Service disclose Ms. Spanberger's SF-86? If so, who and what were the circumstances of the disclosure?
- (2) Did the disclosure of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 or any other documents provided under America Rising's FOIA request violate any laws, regulations, or policies governing disclosure of such materials?
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(6) Does the Postal Service have adequate procedures in place to process FOIA requests and prevent disclosure of protected information?

(7) What actions, if any, has Postal Service management taken to prevent unauthorized and impermissible disclosures of such information in the future?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

Gerald E. Connolly
Vice Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

[1] C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application, New York Times (Aug. 28, 2018) (online at www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html<<http://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>>).

[2] In an Unprecedented Move, the US Postal Service Released a Former CIA Officer's Security Application to a Republican Group, BuzzFeed News (Aug. 29, 2018) (online at www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gracewyler/usps-releases-cia-officer-security-clearance-application<<http://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gracewyler/usps-releases-cia-officer-security-clearance-application>>).

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Childs, Stephanie S - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:26 PM
To: Slusher, Scott R - Washington, DC; Simpson, Mary Ann - Washington, DC; Sallay, Rod (HQ) - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

FYI – I already shared w/Sheila...

From: Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:18 PM
To: Childs, Stephanie S - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Ray, Christine - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 7:11 PM, Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stephenson, Mark"

(b)(6)

Date: August 29, 2018 at 6:40:49 PM EDT

To: Ron Stroman (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request Postal IG Investigation

FYI – This just went out to press.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2018

CONNOLLY: Collin Davenport

(b)(6)

CUMMINGS: Aryele Bradford

(b)(6)

Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request IG Investigation into Postal Service's Reported Release of Congressional Candidate's SF-86 and Personnel File

Washington, D.C.—Today, Vice Ranking Member Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, sent a letter to the Acting Inspector General for the United States Postal Service requesting an investigation into the Postal Service's reported release of a former employee and current Congressional candidate's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86). Press reports indicate that the unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and personnel file of Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth of Virginia's 7th Congressional District, was released by the Postal Service to a conservative PAC through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Ms. Spanberger, an ex-CIA officer, is also a former employee of the Postal Service. The personal information obtained through the FOIA request was subsequently used by a Super PAC working against Ms. Spanberger.

"We write to request that your office conduct an investigation into the reported release by the United States Postal Service of a former employee's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and any other related personal information that was released in violation of privacy statutes and other laws and regulations," the Ranking Members wrote.

They also wrote,

"The release of Ms. Spanberger's unredacted SF-86 to any individual or entity without her permission in violation of the law would call into question the Postal Service's processes for responding to FOIA requests."

The Members requested that the Office of the Inspector General address at least the following questions:

- (1) Did anyone at the Postal Service disclose Ms. Spanberger's SF-86? If so, who and what were the circumstances of the disclosure?
- (2) Did the disclosure of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 or any other documents provided under America Rising's FOIA request violate any laws, regulations, or policies governing disclosure of such materials?
- (3) What, if any, information provided under America's Rising's FOIA request should not have been provided?
- (4) Why did the Postal Service not seek a privacy waiver from Ms. Spanberger before releasing her personnel file and SF-86 pursuant to a FOIA request?
- (5) Were any individuals in the Postal Service who handled America Rising's FOIA request aware of Ms. Spanberger's candidacy for Virginia's 7th Congressional District or the political nature of America Rising's request?
- (6) Does the Postal Service have adequate procedures in place to process FOIA requests and prevent disclosure of protected information?
- (7) What actions, if any, has Postal Service management taken to prevent unauthorized and impermissible disclosures of such information in the future?

The full letter follows and is available here<https://connolly.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2018-08-29.EEC_Connolly_to_USPS_OIG_re_SF86_Disclosure.pdf>.

August 29, 2018

Ms. Tammy L. Whitcomb
Acting Inspector General

United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street
Alexandria, VA 22209-2029

Dear Acting Inspector General Whitcomb:

We write to request that your office conduct an investigation into the reported release by the United States Postal Service of a former employee's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and any other related personal information that was released in violation of privacy statutes and other laws and regulations.

On August 28, 2018 the New York Times reported that the Congressional Leadership Fund, a political action committee (PAC), obtained the federal security clearance application, SF-86, of Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth of Virginia's 7th Congressional District.[1] Press reports indicate that an unredacted copy of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 was obtained by America Rising, a political research firm, through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Postal Service, which then shared it with the PAC. It was also reported that the Postal Service provided America Rising with Ms. Spanberger's entire personnel file.[2] It is unclear whether any of these disclosures conformed with laws and regulations including FOIA or the Privacy Act.

The release of Ms. Spanberger's unredacted SF-86 to any individual or entity without her permission in violation of the law would call into question the Postal Service's processes for responding to FOIA requests. We request that your office investigate the Postal Service's role in the release of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 and related personnel information and, at a minimum, address the following questions:

- (1) Did anyone at the Postal Service disclose Ms. Spanberger's SF-86? If so, who and what were the circumstances of the disclosure?
- (2) Did the disclosure of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 or any other documents provided under America Rising's FOIA request violate any laws, regulations, or policies governing disclosure of such materials?
- (3) What, if any, information provided under America's Rising's FOIA request should not have been provided?
- (4) Why did the Postal Service not seek a privacy waiver from Ms. Spanberger before releasing her personnel file and SF-86 pursuant to a FOIA request?
- (5) Were any individuals in the Postal Service who handled America Rising's FOIA request aware of Ms. Spanberger's candidacy for Virginia's 7th Congressional District or the political nature of America Rising's request?

(6) Does the Postal Service have adequate procedures in place to process FOIA requests and prevent disclosure of protected information?

(7) What actions, if any, has Postal Service management taken to prevent unauthorized and impermissible disclosures of such information in the future?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

Gerald E. Connolly
Vice Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman

[1] C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application, New York Times (Aug. 28, 2018) (online at www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html<<http://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>>).

[2] In an Unprecedented Move, the US Postal Service Released a Former CIA Officer's Security Application to a Republican Group, BuzzFeed News (Aug. 29, 2018) (online at www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gracewyler/usps-releases-cia-officer-security-clearance-application<<http://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gracewyler/usps-releases-cia-officer-security-clearance-application>>).

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:35 PM
To: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:19 PM, Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Date: 8/28/18 7:10 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment. National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president. But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Castorina, Janine -
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E -
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Chavannes-
Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

From (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:35 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:09 PM
To: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E -
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

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"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

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"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

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The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Castorina, Janine -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Jane

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:02 PM

To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Storey, Simon M - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:38 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Summary of OPF Requests
Attachments: Summary of OPF Requests.xlsx; eOPF Contents final - A Spanberger Aug 2018.xlsx

(b)(5)

From: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 6:43 PM
To: Storey, Simon M - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: Summary of OPF Requests

Simon,

(b)(5)

Thanks,
Jeannine Graham
Manager, Employment Policy & Programs
Human Resources (HQ)
United States Postal Service|* 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20260

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Brennan, Megan J - Washington, DC
Cc: Stroman, Ronald A - Washington, DC; Cottrell, Guy J
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 8:32 PM, Brennan, Megan J - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

Megan

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:23 PM, Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

Thomas J. Marshall

General Counsel and Executive Vice President United States Postal Service

From: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Date: August 28, 2018 at 7:13:25 PM EDT

To: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC" "Chavannes-

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

D - Washington, DC" "Walker, Janice

Jeffery A - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) "Adams,

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION Thanks Janine. I have copied Janice Walker and Jeff Adams on this email.

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:11 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an

interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called “Terror High” in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was “100 percent” certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

“I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted,” she said. “I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security.”

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia’s Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

“When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks,” she said in the letter. “But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F.”

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting “push polling” in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had “numerous students arrested for terrorism,” Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master’s degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor’s maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment. National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

“It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant,” said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president. But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Castorina, Janine -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Chavannes-

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

I sent an email to Ms. Gabriel to see if she knows anything about this. I'll let you know as soon as I hear something.

Jane

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:02 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:37 PM
To: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: URGENT query from the (b)(6)

I have this one David.

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:49 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Spanberger Security Clearance

From the New York Times story

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)



Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:49 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: URGENT query from the Daily Beast

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

From the New York Times story

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:52 PM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC; Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC; Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC; Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:11 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6); Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program.

One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president. But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

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"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

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She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 10:10 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: URGENT query from the (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Ok thanks

David P. Coleman
Public Relations
U.S. Postal Service

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

----- Original message -----

From: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Date: 8/28/18 9:36 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Coleman, David P - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: FW: URGENT query from the (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

I have this one David.

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Purcell, Cathy K - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 6:50 AM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Let me know if I can help with anything.

On Aug 29, 2018, at 6:05 AM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 7:11 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Cc: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

Chavannes-

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 7:09 PM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

wrote:

(b)(5)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

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"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups

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A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

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"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

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From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 8:10 AM
To: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Cc: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Janine Castorina
Chief Privacy and Records Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington DC, 20260

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

202.268.2049 fax

From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 8:07 AM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Cc: Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

Date: 8/29/18 8:04 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC" (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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* Aug. 28, 2018

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The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school - called "Terror High" in an earlier news article - to terrorist activity.

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"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment. National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president. But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

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The New York Times

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WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC

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n-RudOPql5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels.

CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-

manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-

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This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe

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HiiSb0YqJ7YG_MVvuWEcYU7YbRut7jaWOMsrZeVw&e=> of the controversial Islamic school and questioning whether the Islamic Saudi Academy was "another madrassa." In addition, CLF is redacting the document to exclude personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers, even though this information was released by the USPS as part of the response to the FOIA request.

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YbWjfO9Pw98D9JRrUwTsMecVvMid-Rj4&e=>

1747 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

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3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D76394b8060-26e-3D09970d7f05-26c-
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1uAr4aK9k&e=>

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 8:46 AM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
Cc: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC; Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC; Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC; Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC; Cottrell, Guy J; Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC; Latham, Sandra R - Washington, DC; Sultan, Steven E - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 8:24 AM, Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

Janine Castorina
Chief Privacy and Records Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington DC, 20260

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

202.268.2049 fax

From: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 10:03 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

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Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

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"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

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From: Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:21 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Castorina, Janine -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

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"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

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The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

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Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: NY Times Article
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png

On it

Mary Beth Levin
Manager, Social Listening and Insights (A) Social Business Intelligence Corporate Communications
United States Postal Service, HQ (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
www.usps.com<<http://www.usps.com/>>

On Aug 29, 2018, at 9:34 AM, Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC; Hallums, Kimberly D - Washington, DC; Matyas, Emily A - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: NY Times Article
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png

Please do a quick look at this now and a second look after the daily report

Mary Beth Levin
Manager, Social Listening and Insights (A) Social Business Intelligence Corporate Communications
United States Postal Service, HQ (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
www.usps.com<<http://www.usps.com/>>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC"

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)



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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be

named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

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"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

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As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president.

But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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The New York Times

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 28, 2018

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(b)(6)

CLF Issues Statement: What Is Abigail Spanberger Hiding

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=sPC6InUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIvefeYKhFj n-RudOPqI5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1 eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe

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HiiSb0YqJ7YG_MVvuWEcYU7YbRut7jaWOMsrZeVw&e=> of the controversial Islamic school and
questioning whether the Islamic Saudi Academy was "another madrassa." In addition, CLF is
redacting the document to exclude personal information such as home addresses, telephone
numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers, even though this information was released by
the USPS as part of the response to the FOIA request.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png>]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3) 39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: New York Times story
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

* Aug. 28, 2018

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Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school - called "Terror High" in an earlier news article - to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be

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The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

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Manager, Public Relations
U.S. Postal Service

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[cid:image001.jpg@01CE216B.6041B7E0]<<http://usps.com/news>>[cid:image002.jpg@01CE216B.6041B7E0]<<http://facebook.com/usps>>[cid:image004.jpg@01CE216B.6041B7E0]<<http://linkedin.com/company/usps>>[cid:image004.jpg@01CE216D.CF5B1D90]<<http://www.twitter.com/usps>>[cid:image005.jpg@01CE216B.6041B7E0]<<http://youtube.com/usps>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:07 AM
To: Lind, Christopher W - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(5)

Janine Castorina
Chief Privacy and Records Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington DC, 20260

(b)(3):39 USC 410
(c)(2):(b)(6)

From: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 8:46 AM
To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Cc: Partenheim, (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Weidner, Keith E - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Adams
Jeffery A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Cottrell, Guy J (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Marshall, Thomas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Latham, Sandra R -
Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Sultan, Steven E - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 8:24 AM, Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

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"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

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Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

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"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

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(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)

From:

(b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

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Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:02 PM

To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC

Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Weidner, Keith E -

Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: NY Times Article
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png

Ok, thanks

Nicholas J. Sucich
Manager, Digital Communications
United States Postal Service, HQ

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image003.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>

[cid:image004.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>>

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[cid:image007.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://instagram.com/uspostalservice>>

[cid:image008.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

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[cid:image008.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:15 AM
To: Williamson, Jeffrey C - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: URGENT query from the (b)(6)

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC"

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Date: August 28, 2018 at 9:49:27 PM EDT

To: "Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC"

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

"Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC" (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: FW: URGENT query from the Daily Beast

From the New York Times story

(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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Aug. 28, 2018

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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

To: Castorina, Janine - Washington, DC
<Janine.Castorina@usps.gov<mailto:Janine.Castorina@usps.gov>>; Eyre, Jane G - Washington, DC
<Jane.G.Eyre@usps.gov<mailto:Jane.G.Eyre@usps.gov>>
Cc: Bonanno, Natalie A - Washington, DC
<Natalie.A.Bonanno@usps.gov<mailto:Natalie.A.Bonanno@usps.gov>>; Weidner, Keith E -
Washington, DC <Keith.E.Weidner@usps.gov<mailto:Keith.E.Weidner@usps.gov>>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Janine and Jane, please see below from the New York Times. I'm not sure what if anything we can say about this FOIA? Since the FOIA in question was not from a media outlet, I am not aware of the details of this one. Direction on how to handle this is appreciated.

Thanks
Dave

From: (b)(6)
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The New York Times

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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The New York Times

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AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Lind, Christopher W - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:21 AM
To: Merho, Elda - Washington, DC
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Chris Lind
Manager, Privacy and Records

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Begin forwarded message:

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)

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Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:02 PM
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"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:37 AM
To: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Call me (b)(3):39 USC 410
(c)(3);(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 10:29 AM, Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

With him now.

Thanks,
Jeannine Graham

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She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)



From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 10:37 AM, Bruce, Joseph R - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) wrote:

Call me (b)(3):39 USC 410
(c)(2);(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2018, at 10:29 AM, Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) wrote:

With him now.

Thanks,
Jeannine Graham

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be

named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

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The New York Times

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 28, 2018

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CLF Issues Statement: What Is Abigail Spanberger Hiding

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=sPC6InUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIVefeYKhFj n-RudOPql5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1 eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe

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[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png>]

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(b)(6)

CLF Issues Statement: What Is Abigail Spanberger Hiding

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=sPC6InUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIVefeYKhFj n-RudOPql5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1 eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S.

Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png>]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png>]

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Washington, DC 20006

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manage.com]<[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_unsubscribe-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D76394b8060-26e-3D09970d7f05-26c-3D22b373fdfa&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorpvlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=tuhZE4Rzuoi_0YFtbospHt7J36tSAr_iSq1uAr4aK9k&e=>)

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1uAr4aK9k&e=>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_unsubscribe-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D76394b8060-26e-3D09970d7f05-26c-3D22b373fdfa&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorpvlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=tuhZE4Rzuoi_0YFtbospHt7J36tSAr_iSq1uAr4aK9k&e=>)

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:56 AM
To: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: media monitoring report attached
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:57 AM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: media monitoring report attached
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Dave see attached

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:59 AM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: just found this story
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png

<https://www.wonkette.com/paul-ryans-pac-wants-to-fight-dirty-with-cia-agent-abigail-spanberger-lotsa-luck>

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image016.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/usps>>
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[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC <David.A.Partenheimer@usps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC
Cc: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: media monitoring report attached
Attachments: media monitoring FOIA.docx

Just two stories so far....last night's NY Times story and Buzzfeed (attached).

(b)(5)

Thanks
Dave

Media Tracking

Links to Stories:

Nytimes.com: [C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application](#)

Buzzfeednews.com: [In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group](#)

Full Text of Stories:

Nytimes.com

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application

By Michael Tackett

- Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia. The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political Report, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program.

One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president.

But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."
Nytimes.com

Buzzfeednews.com

In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group

By Grace Wyler & Jason Leopold

The former officer, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger, has suggested the information was released for partisan purposes. Documents show USPS was responding to a FOIA request from research group America Rising.

The United States Postal Service has released the entire federal security clearance application of a former CIA officer running for Congress, in what experts say is a highly unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, move, given the extensive, highly personal nature of the information contained in such documents.

In an [interview with the New York Times](#) published Tuesday, the former officer, Abigail Spanberger, accused the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, of improperly obtaining the document, and suggested that the Trump administration may have leaked the information for partisan purposes.

But BuzzFeed News can confirm that an unredacted copy of the federal security clearance application was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed by America Rising, a research group allied with the Republican Party, which then shared it with the Congressional Leadership Fund. Spanberger, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Rep. David Brat in a Virginia congressional race that has become surprisingly competitive going into the fall midterm campaign.

Documents viewed by BuzzFeed News show that the request for Spanberger's entire civilian personnel file was submitted early last month to the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the National Archives. The request, which sought records related to the former CIA officer's employment dates, salaries, title, and position descriptions, did not explicitly mention the federal security clearance application, known as an SF-86.

The FOIA request specifically sought records from Spanberger's official personnel folder from the US Postal Inspection Service, where she used to work. America Rising's FOIA request included the first five numbers of Spanberger's social security number, which the group obtained from LexisNexis, BuzzFeed News has learned.

The documents show that on July 12, three days after the FOIA request was submitted, the NPRC notified America Rising that the FOIA request had been forwarded to the US Postal Service for processing, and that some information could be released under the FOIA "without consent from the individual."

On July 30, the USPS provided America Rising with Spanberger's entire personnel folder, including the SF-86.

"America Rising submitted a standard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the National Personnel Records Center which was referred to the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, which provided us responsive documents," America Rising CEO Joe Pounder said in a statement to BuzzFeed News. "Why the USPS disclosed certain information in response to the FOIA is for their response. At the end of the day, this Democrat candidate is trying to block the one thing FOIA is meant to provide, transparency."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to USPS for comment on why the unredacted file was released, but did not immediately receive a response.

According to the Times, the SF-86 is one of two security clearance applications Spanberger submitted when she first applied to work for the federal government in 2002: one to the CIA and one for a law enforcement job at USPS, which she took while waiting to hear back about the job at the intelligence agency.

The decision by USPS to release the unredacted document was unusual, FOIA and security clearance expert Bradley Moss, an attorney with Mark S. Zaid, P.C., told BuzzFeed News. The SF-86 form is an extensive and probing questionnaire that asks applicants for all manner of personal background details, including where the applicant has lived and worked, their history of drug and alcohol use, and a number of other questions that could yield potentially embarrassing facts, he said.

Spanberger has said that Republicans seemed to be looking for information related to her brief stint as a teacher at the Islamic Saudi Academy, a private international baccalaureate program in Alexandria, Virginia, funded by the Saudi Arabian government.

"Someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired," Moss said. "If they truly managed to release this file without noticing the Standard Form 86 paperwork in the file, there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer."

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Spanberger's campaign and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have called the release of the information troubling, and suggested that the documents may have been improperly released by the Trump administration, noting the president's persistent attacks on US intelligence agencies and personnel.

In a letter to congressional candidates seen by the Times, DCCC Chair Ben Ray Luján wrote that Spanberger's SF-86 was "an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form."

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján conceded. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC; Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Cc: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC; Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC; Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: media monitoring report attached
Attachments: media monitoring FOIA.DOCX

(b)(5)

Jeff

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:00 AM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: FW: media monitoring report attached

Just two stories so far....last night's NY Times story and Buzzfeed (attached).

(b)(5)

Thanks
Dave

Media Tracking

Links to Stories:

Nytimes.com: [C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application](#)

Buzzfeednews.com: [In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group](#)

Full Text of Stories:

Nytimes.com

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application

By Michael Tackett

- Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia. The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political Report, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

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A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

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National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

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The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

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Nytimes.com

Buzzfeednews.com

In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group

By Grace Wyler & Jason Leopold

The former officer, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger, has suggested the information was released for partisan purposes. Documents show USPS was responding to a FOIA request from research group America Rising.

The United States Postal Service has released the entire federal security clearance application of a former CIA officer running for Congress, in what experts say is a highly unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, move, given the extensive, highly personal nature of the information contained in such documents.

In an [interview with the New York Times](#) published Tuesday, the former officer, Abigail Spanberger, accused the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, of improperly obtaining the document, and suggested that the Trump administration may have leaked the information for partisan purposes.

But BuzzFeed News can confirm that an unredacted copy of the federal security clearance application was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed by America Rising, a research group allied with the Republican Party, which then shared it with the Congressional Leadership Fund. Spanberger, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Rep. David Brat in a Virginia congressional race that has become surprisingly competitive going into the fall midterm campaign.

Documents viewed by BuzzFeed News show that the request for Spanberger's entire civilian personnel file was submitted early last month to the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the National Archives. The request, which sought records related to the former CIA officer's employment dates, salaries, title, and position descriptions, did not explicitly mention the federal security clearance application, known as an SF-86.

The FOIA request specifically sought records from Spanberger's official personnel folder from the US Postal Inspection Service, where she used to work. America Rising's FOIA request included the first five numbers of Spanberger's social security number, which the group obtained from LexisNexis, BuzzFeed News has learned.

The documents show that on July 12, three days after the FOIA request was submitted, the NPRC notified America Rising that the FOIA request had been forwarded to the US Postal Service for processing, and that some information could be released under the FOIA "without consent from the individual."

On July 30, the USPS provided America Rising with Spanberger's entire personnel folder, including the SF-86.

"America Rising submitted a standard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the National Personnel Records Center which was referred to the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, which provided us responsive documents," America Rising CEO Joe Pounder said in a statement to BuzzFeed News. "Why the USPS disclosed certain information in response to the FOIA is for their response. At the end of the day, this Democrat candidate is trying to block the one thing FOIA is meant to provide, transparency."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to USPS for comment on why the unredacted file was released, but did not immediately receive a response.

According to the Times, the SF-86 is one of two security clearance applications Spanberger submitted when she first applied to work for the federal government in 2002: one to the CIA and one for a law enforcement job at USPS, which she took while waiting to hear back about the job at the intelligence agency.

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Aug. 28, 2018

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"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: Media Monitoring 2nd report
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Dave see attached (3 stories so far)

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Media Tracking 2nd Report

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Wonkette.com: [Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!](#)

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Nytimes.com

Buzzfeednews.com

In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group

By Grace Wyler & Jason Leopold

The former officer, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger, has suggested the information was released for partisan purposes. Documents shows USPS was responding to a FOIA request from research group America Rising.

The United States Postal Service has released the entire federal security clearance application of a former CIA officer running for Congress, in what experts say is a highly unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, move, given the extensive, highly personal nature of the information contained in such documents.

In an [interview with the New York Times](#) published Tuesday, the former officer, Abigail Spanberger, accused the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, of improperly obtaining the document, and suggested that the Trump administration may have leaked the information for partisan purposes.

But BuzzFeed News can confirm that an unredacted copy of the federal security clearance application was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed by America Rising, a research group allied with the Republican Party, which then shared it with the Congressional Leadership Fund. Spanberger, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Rep. David Brat in a Virginia congressional race that has become surprisingly competitive going into the fall midterm campaign.

Documents viewed by BuzzFeed News show that the request for Spanberger's entire civilian personnel file was submitted early last month to the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the National Archives. The request, which sought records related to the former CIA officer's employment dates, salaries, title, and position descriptions, did not explicitly mention the federal security clearance application, known as an SF-86.

The FOIA request specifically sought records from Spanberger's official personnel folder from the US Postal Inspection Service, where she used to work. America Rising's FOIA request included the first five numbers of Spanberger's social security number, which the group obtained from LexisNexis, BuzzFeed News has learned.

The documents show that on July 12, three days after the FOIA request was submitted, the NPRC notified America Rising that the FOIA request had been forwarded to the US Postal Service for processing, and that some information could be released under the FOIA "without consent from the individual."

On July 30, the USPS provided America Rising with Spanberger's entire personnel folder, including the SF-86.

"America Rising submitted a standard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the National Personnel Records Center which was referred to the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, which provided us responsive documents," America Rising CEO Joe Pounder said in a statement to BuzzFeed News. "Why the USPS disclosed certain information in response to the FOIA is for their response. At the end of the day, this Democrat candidate is trying to block the one thing FOIA is meant to provide, transparency."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to USPS for comment on why the unredacted file was released, but did not immediately receive a response.

According to the Times, the SF-86 is one of two security clearance applications Spanberger submitted when she first applied to work for the federal government in 2002: one to the CIA and one for a law enforcement job at USPS, which she took while waiting to hear back about the job at the intelligence agency.

The decision by USPS to release the unredacted document was unusual, FOIA and security clearance expert Bradley Moss, an attorney with Mark S. Zaid, P.C., told BuzzFeed News. The SF-86 form is an extensive and probing questionnaire that asks applicants for all manner of personal background details, including where the applicant has lived and worked, their history of drug and alcohol use, and a number of other questions that could yield potentially embarrassing facts, he said.

Spanberger has said that Republicans seemed to be looking for information related to her brief stint as a teacher at the Islamic Saudi Academy, a private international baccalaureate program in Alexandria, Virginia, funded by the Saudi Arabian government.

"Someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired," Moss said. "If they truly managed to release this file without noticing the Standard Form 86 paperwork in the file, there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer."

"SF-86 paperwork is categorically privacy-protected and to my knowledge has never been released through FOIA to a third party absent a privacy waiver," he added.

Spanberger's campaign and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have called the release of the information troubling, and suggested that the documents may have been improperly released by the Trump administration, noting the president's persistent attacks on US intelligence agencies and personnel.

In a letter to congressional candidates seen by the Times, DCCC Chair Ben Ray Luján wrote that Spanberger's SF-86 was "an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form."

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján conceded. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!

By Five Dollar Feminist

Yesterday the [Times](#) reported that Paul Ryan's pet SuperPAC got its hands on Virginia congressional candidate Abigail Spanberger's unredacted security clearance application, and is using it to pretend the former CIA agent worked in a madrassa. Because naturally those unpatriotic bigots would take allegedly hacked data and try to paint a covert counterterrorism operative as a goddamn terrorist. *Of fucking course!*

Leaving aside the wisdom of using government personnel records to smear a federal agent in a district with huge numbers of Defense Department employees who have filled out the exact same form with the expectation that *that shit is private*, just how the hell did the Congressional Leadership Fund get their grubby paws on a document that's illegal to release under the [Privacy Act](#)?

Well, CLF has a very good answer for that question. It's the darnedest thing! They were walking down the street the other day, and Ms. Spanberger's entire, unredacted SF86 form just fell off the back of a truck! *More or less.*

On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86

Yeah, their story is that their oppo researchers submitted a FOIA request to the Post Office, where Spanberger had applied in to work in the security division in 2002, and the USPS happily overnighted them her entire, unredacted personnel file -- social security number, medical records, and all.

- Spanberger sent CLF a cease and desist letter saying, "I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document." To which the PAC responded, NUH UH TERRORIST LADY!

Just to be clear, Spanberger was a substitute AP English teacher at a school for Saudi kids in Alexandria while she was waiting for her security clearance to be processed, after which she went on to spend eight years working for the CIA. That's literally all these fuckers got on her.

But back to that "personnel file," which CLF is still swearing the Post Office overnighted them in response to a FOIA request.

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)



According to former director of the United States Office of Government Ethics, Walter Shaub, the SF86 isn't even a part of a government personnel file.

CLF's oppo goons may have put in a FOIA request with the Post Office, but we're highly skeptical that's how they netted Spanberger's SF86. And so is NatSec Twitter!

If we had to guess, we'd speculate that this form was stolen in a 2015 Chinese hack of the federal Office of Personnel Management, and someone is attempting to launder it through a recent FOIA request. But would the very fine people at the Congressional Leadership Fund do a lowdown, dirty thing like that? *You bet your ass they would!* Those are the same guys who happily gobbled up all the stolen DCCC emails that Russia could hack in 2016 and turned them into attack ads.

But this time, they may have bitten off a little more than they can chew. It's one thing to hack a political committee, but it's quite another to hack the United States government. If this FOIA is faked and the materials were either leaked or stolen, CLF is going to be exposed in about 12 hours. And even if someone at the Post Office really did fuck up and send them Spanberger's unredacted file, they got *literally nothing* out of it but a giant black eye.

She pitched in for a high school teacher on maternity leave? PFFFFT.

The district is historically safe for the GOP, but Cook Political has moved the race from Leans Republican to Toss Up. And Tea Party dipshit Dave Brat is running downballot from infamous white supremacist senatorial candidate Cory Stewart. Meanwhile Spanberger is riding on Tim Kaine's popular coattails in a district that Trump only took by 50 percent. *No wonder they're scared!*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

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National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

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(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

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Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

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The New York Times

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Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Submit New Request

Requester Details

To modify request details please update your requester profile or contact the our office for assistance.

(b)(6)

Reporter
Q Roll Call
875 Woodland Dr. NW
Washington, DC 20008

(b)(6)

Requester Default Category: News Media

General Information

Requester Category News Media
Send Response Via E-mail
Payment Mode

Shipping Address

Address 2875 Woodland Dr. NW
Apartment/Suite Number
City Washington
State(US) District of Columbia
Country United States
Zip Code 20008

Request Information

Description Document
Description of Request I request any and all electronic or written communications regarding FOIA requests by the political action committee America Rising, as well as any and all electronic or written communications pertaining to FOIA requests with regard to Abigail Spanberger.
Date Range for Record 06/01/2018
Search:From
Date Range for Record 08/29/2018
Search:To
Privacy Waiver & Authorization
Proof of Identity

Fee Information

Willing Amount
Fee Waiver Requested
Fee Waiver Request Reason

(b)(6)

Willing to Pay All Fees

Expedite Information

Expedited Processing
Requested
Need for Expedited Processing

Submit New Request

Requester Details

To modify request details please update your requester profile or contact the our office for assistance.

(b)(6)

NN
20 First Street NE
th Floor
Vashington, DC 20002

(b)(6)

Requester Default Category: News Media

General Information

Requester Category	News Media
Send Response Via	E-mail
Payment Mode	

Shipping Address

Address	820 First Street NE
Apartment/Suite Number	8th Floor
City	Washington
State(US)	District of Columbia
Country	United States
Zip Code	20002

Request Information

Description Document	2018-08-29 USPS foia request Abigail Spanberger.pdf
Description of Request	"...all records previously produced in response to a request from America Rising Corporation for the personnel files of Abigail Spanberger."
Date Range for Record Search:From	12/01/1900
Date Range for Record Search:To	08/29/2018
Privacy Waiver & Authorization	
Proof of Identity	

Fee Information

Billing Amount	(b)(6)
Fee Waiver Requested	
Fee Waiver Request Reason	
Willing to Pay All Fees	

Expedite Information

Expedited Processing Requested	
Lead for Expedited Processing	

View this email in your browser [mailchi.mp]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__mailchi.mp_265df5b1f4a1_clf-2Dissues-2Dstatement-2Dwhat-2Dis-2Dabigail-2Dspanberger-2Dhiding-3Fe-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp_vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=57PzdD6bGq5Auy0CvpopsnFQ0tQb6CKPVxVFm8vfKjM&e=>

[congressional leadership fund][congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D671ce65c43-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp_vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=SGluu2zjVcsBWVumZ0h3JF1CHLY_SVXAuRLQFLPdU54&e=>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 28, 2018

[mail]<mailto:(b)(6)>

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CLF Issues Statement: What Is Abigail Spanberger Hiding

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=sPC6lnUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIVefeYKhFjn-RudOPqI5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe

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HiiSb0YqJ7YG_MVvuWEcYU7YbRut7jaWOMsrZeVw&e=> of the controversial Islamic school and
questioning whether the Islamic Saudi Academy was "another madrassa." In addition, CLF is
redacting the document to exclude personal information such as home addresses, telephone
numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers, even though this information was released by
the USPS as part of the response to the FOIA request.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png>]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png>]

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

· Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She

demanding that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political

Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program.

One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a

school funded by the Saudi royal family that had “numerous students arrested for terrorism,” Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master’s degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor’s maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

“It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant,” said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger’s complaint and urging caution.

“This is an official government document that only President Trump’s administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form,” Mr. Luján said.

“To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger’s document in the first place,” Mr. Luján said. “But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling.”

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. “As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing,” said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. “In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic.”

President Trump’s persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a “deep state” exists in the government that is working to undermine the president. But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

“I personally don’t see that they only have my documents,” Ms. Spanberger said. “I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention.”

She added, “I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I’m glad it’s me.”

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?

Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT

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Requester Details

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(b)(6)

Reporter
Q Roll Call
875 Woodland Dr. NW
Washington, DC 20008

(b)(6)

Requester Default Category: News Media

General Information

Requester Category News Media
Send Response Via E-mail
Payment Mode

Shipping Address

Address 2875 Woodland Dr. NW
Apartment/Suite Number
City Washington
State(US) District of Columbia
Country United States
Zip Code 20008

Request Information

Description Document
Description of Request I request any and all electronic or written communications regarding FOIA requests by the political action committee America Rising, as well as any and all electronic or written communications pertaining to FOIA requests with regard to Abigail Spanberger.
Date Range for Record Search:From 06/01/2018
Date Range for Record Search:To 08/29/2018
Privacy Waiver & Authorization
Proof of Identity

Fee Information

Willing Amount
Fee Waiver Requested
Fee Waiver Request Reason

(b)(6)

Willing to Pay All Fees

Expedite Information

Expedited Processing
Requested
Lead for Expedited Processing

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Requester Details

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(b)(6)

NN
20 First Street NE
th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

(b)(6)

Requester Default Category: News Media

General Information

Requester Category News Media
Send Response Via E-mail
Payment Mode

Shipping Address

Address 820 First Street NE
Apartment/Suite Number 8th Floor
City Washington
State(US) District of Columbia
Country United States
Zip Code 20002

Request Information

Description Document 2018-08-29 USPS foia request Abigail Spanberger.pdf
Description of Request "...all records previously produced in response to a request from America Rising Corporation for the personnel files of Abigail Spanberger."
Date Range for Record 12/01/1900
Search:From
Date Range for Record 08/29/2018
Search:To
Privacy Waiver & Authorization
Proof of Identity

Fee Information

Willing Amount
Fee Waiver Requested
Fee Waiver Request Reason
Willing to Pay All Fees

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Reporter
Q Roll Call
875 Woodland Dr. NW
Washington, DC 20008

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General Information

Requester Category	News Media
Send Response Via	E-mail
Payment Mode	

Shipping Address

Address	2875 Woodland Dr. NW
Apartment/Suite Number	
City	Washington
State(US)	District of Columbia
Country	United States
Zip Code	20008

Request Information

Description Document	
Description of Request	I request any and all electronic or written communications regarding FOIA requests by the political action committee America Rising, as well as any and all electronic or written communications pertaining to FOIA requests with regard to Abigail Spanberger.
Date Range for Record Search:From	06/01/2018
Date Range for Record Search:To	08/29/2018
Privacy Waiver & Authorization	
Proof of Identity	

Fee Information

Willing Amount	(b)(6)
Fee Waiver Requested	
Fee Waiver Request Reason	

Willing to Pay All Fees

Expedite Information

Expedited Processing Requested	
Lead for Expedited Processing	

Submit New Request

Requester Details

To modify request details please update your requester profile or contact the our office for assistance.

(b)(6)

NN
20 First Street NE
th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

(b)(6)

Requester Default Category: News Media

General Information

Requester Category	News Media
Send Response Via	E-mail
Payment Mode	

Shipping Address

Address	820 First Street NE
Apartment/Suite Number	8th Floor
City	Washington
State(US)	District of Columbia
Country	United States
Zip Code	20002

Request Information

Description Document	2018-08-29 USPS foia request Abigail Spanberger.pdf
Description of Request	"...all records previously produced in response to a request from America Rising Corporation for the personnel files of Abigail Spanberger."
Date Range for Record Search:From	12/01/1900
Date Range for Record Search:To	08/29/2018
Privacy Waiver & Authorization	
Proof of Identity	

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Fee Information

Billing Amount	
Fee Waiver Requested	
Fee Waiver Request Reason	
Willing to Pay All Fees	

Expedite Information

Expedited Processing Requested	
Lead for Expedited Processing	

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

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(b)(3):39 USC 410
(c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

CLF Issues Statement: What Is Abigail Spanberger Hiding

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=sPC6lnUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIVefeYKhFj n-RudOPqI5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1 eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-

manage.com]<

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png>]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

[<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png>]

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1747 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political Report<<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/us/politics/dave-brat-women-virginia.html>>, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program. One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment. National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies. Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Lujan said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

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"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)



From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
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The New York Times

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement. The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

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Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia.

The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Walton, Carl A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: New York Times story
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

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As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

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Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management<<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/05/us/breach-in-a-federal-computer-system-exposes-personnel-data.html>>. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

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Dave Partenheimer
Manager, Public Relations
U.S. Postal Service

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)



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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application By Michael Tackett<<https://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-tackett>>

Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

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The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

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Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

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(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOIA URGENT QUESTION

Mr. Partenheimer,

There is an urgent dispute over the release of the SF86 form of Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia. She asserts that the Congressional Leadership Fund improperly obtained the document, then shared it with the media for political purposes.

The fund said that another group, American Rising, submitted a FOIA for Ms. Spanberger's records through the normal channels in a letter dated July 9, 2018, and that the postal service response included an unredacted copy for the SF86. That letter is dated July 30, 2018 and signed by Pamela Gabriel.

Can you please put me in touch with the right person to ask about this?
Thank you

(b)(6)

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: fyi

For your report

From: Smith, Paul F - Eastern Area Office - Philadelphia, PA
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:27 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6) Adams, Jeffery A -
Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:32 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: fyi

Got it.

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Hagen, Nikolaj O - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:39 PM
To: _GOV RELATIONS MANAGERS; Hanlon, Bryan T - Washington, DC
Cc: _GOV RELATIONS POLICY
Subject: Postal Service FOIA Mishap in VA Election

A former CIA officer and Postal Inspector running for Congress says that her security clearance was handed to an opposing Super PAC by the Postal Service.

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

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"The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm."

Sent from my iPhone

From: (b)(6)

Date: August 29, 2018 at 10:38:30 AM EDT

To: "ISMediaInquiries@uspis.gov<mailto:ISMediaInquiries@uspis.gov>"
<ISMediaInquiries@uspis.gov<mailto:ISMediaInquiries@uspis.gov>>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] request regarding personnel records of Ms. Spanberger

Good morning,

My name is (b)(6) a reporter at CNN covering federal government agencies.

I am reaching out regarding the recent release, apparently in response to a FOIA request, of personnel records of Ms. Abigail Spanberger, a former USPIS employee.

Can you clarify for us how these records were requested, and what USPIS released in response to the request? Additionally, has USPIS received authorization from Ms. Spanberger for the release of the records regarding her employment?

I would appreciate a response, even if partial, as soon as you are able.

Thank you kindly, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

CNN

(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: updated Media monitoring FOIA 3rd report
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Dave see attached6 stories

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image014.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>
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[cid:image016.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/usps>>
[cid:image011.jpg@01CFA75B.C8BA5170] <<http://youtube.com/usps>>
[cid:image001.jpg@01CF5A21.85CEFFF0] <<http://instagram.com/uspostalservice>>
[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Media Tracking 3rd Report

Links to Stories:

Nytimes.com: [C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application](#)

Buzzfeednews.com: [In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group](#)

Wonkette.com: [Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!](#)

Theweek.com: [U.S. Postal Service reportedly gave GOP group protected file on ex-CIA Officer](#)

Thehill.com: [Ex-CIA House candidate accuses GOP super PAC of obtaining her security application](#)

TheDailyBeast.com: [Ex-CIA Officer and Candidate Says PAC Got Her Security-Clearance Application](#)

Full Text of Stories:

Nytimes.com

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By Michael Tackett

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Nytimes.com

Buzzfeednews.com

In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group

By Grace Wyler & Jason Leopold

The former officer, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger, has suggested the information was released for partisan purposes. Documents show USPS was responding to a FOIA request from research group America Rising.

The United States Postal Service has released the entire federal security clearance application of a former CIA officer running for Congress, in what experts say is a highly unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, move, given the extensive, highly personal nature of the information contained in such documents.

In an [interview with the New York Times](#) published Tuesday, the former officer, Abigail Spanberger, accused the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, of improperly obtaining the document, and suggested that the Trump administration may have leaked the information for partisan purposes.

But BuzzFeed News can confirm that an unredacted copy of the federal security clearance application was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed by America Rising, a research group allied with the Republican Party, which then shared it with the Congressional Leadership Fund. Spanberger, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Rep. David Brat in a Virginia congressional race that has become surprisingly competitive going into the fall midterm campaign.

Documents viewed by BuzzFeed News show that the request for Spanberger's entire civilian personnel file was submitted early last month to the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the National Archives. The request, which sought records related to the former CIA officer's employment dates, salaries, title, and position descriptions, did not explicitly mention the federal security clearance application, known as an SF-86.

The FOIA request specifically sought records from Spanberger's official personnel folder from the US Postal Inspection Service, where she used to work. America Rising's FOIA request included the first five numbers of Spanberger's social security number, which the group obtained from LexisNexis, BuzzFeed News has learned.

The documents show that on July 12, three days after the FOIA request was submitted, the NPRC notified America Rising that the FOIA request had been forwarded to the US Postal Service for processing, and that some information could be released under the FOIA "without consent from the individual."

On July 30, the USPS provided America Rising with Spanberger's entire personnel folder, including the SF-86.

"America Rising submitted a standard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the National Personnel Records Center which was referred to the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, which provided us responsive documents," America Rising CEO Joe Pounder said in a statement to BuzzFeed News. "Why the USPS disclosed certain information in response to the FOIA is for their response. At the end of the day, this Democrat candidate is trying to block the one thing FOIA is meant to provide, transparency."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to USPS for comment on why the unredacted file was released, but did not immediately receive a response.

According to the Times, the SF-86 is one of two security clearance applications Spanberger submitted when she first applied to work for the federal government in 2002: one to the CIA and one for a law enforcement job at USPS, which she took while waiting to hear back about the job at the intelligence agency.

The decision by USPS to release the unredacted document was unusual, FOIA and security clearance expert Bradley Moss, an attorney with Mark S. Zaid, P.C., told BuzzFeed News. The SF-86 form is an extensive and probing questionnaire that asks applicants for all manner of personal background details, including where the applicant has lived and worked, their history of drug and alcohol use, and a number of other questions that could yield potentially embarrassing facts, he said.

Spanberger has said that Republicans seemed to be looking for information related to her brief stint as a teacher at the Islamic Saudi Academy, a private international baccalaureate program in Alexandria, Virginia, funded by the Saudi Arabian government.

"Someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired," Moss said. "If they truly managed to release this file without noticing the Standard Form 86 paperwork in the file, there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer."

"SF-86 paperwork is categorically privacy-protected and to my knowledge has never been released through FOIA to a third party absent a privacy waiver," he added.

Spanberger's campaign and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have called the release of the information troubling, and suggested that the documents may have been improperly released by the Trump administration, noting the president's persistent attacks on US intelligence agencies and personnel.

In a letter to congressional candidates seen by the Times, DCCC Chair Ben Ray Lujan wrote that Spanberger's SF-86 was "an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form."

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan conceded. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!

By Five Dollar Feminist

Yesterday the [Times](#) reported that Paul Ryan's pet SuperPAC got its hands on Virginia congressional candidate Abigail Spanberger's unredacted security clearance application, and is using it to pretend the former CIA agent worked in a madrassa. Because naturally those unpatriotic bigots would take allegedly hacked data and try to paint a covert counterterrorism operative as a goddamn terrorist. *Of fucking course!*

Leaving aside the wisdom of using government personnel records to smear a federal agent in a district with huge numbers of Defense Department employees who have filled out the exact same form with the expectation that *that shit is private*, just how the hell did the Congressional Leadership Fund get their grubby paws on a document that's illegal to release under the [Privacy Act](#)?

Well, CLF has a very good answer for that question. It's the darnedest thing! They were walking down the street the other day, and Ms. Spanberger's entire, unredacted SF86 form just fell off the back of a truck! *More or less.*

On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86

Yeah, their story is that their oppo researchers submitted a FOIA request to the Post Office, where Spanberger had applied in to work in the security division in 2002, and the USPS happily overnighed them her entire, unredacted personnel file -- social security number, medical records, and all.

- Spanberger sent CLF a cease and desist letter saying, "I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document." To which the PAC responded, NUH UH TERRORIST LADY!

Just to be clear, Spanberger was a substitute AP English teacher at a school for Saudi kids in Alexandria while she was waiting for her security clearance to be processed, after which she went on to spend eight years working for the CIA. That's literally all these fuckers got on her.

But back to that "personnel file," which CLF is still swearing the Post Office overnighed them in response to a FOIA request.

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)



According to former director of the United States Office of Government Ethics, Walter Shaub, the SF86 isn't even a part of a government personnel file.

CLF's oppo goons may have put in a FOIA request with the Post Office, but we're highly skeptical that's how they netted Spanberger's SF86. And so is NatSec Twitter!

If we had to guess, we'd speculate that this form was stolen in a 2015 Chinese hack of the federal Office of Personnel Management, and someone is attempting to launder it through a recent FOIA request. But would the very fine people at the Congressional Leadership Fund do a lowdown, dirty thing like that? *You bet your ass they would!* Those are the same guys who happily gobbled up all the stolen DCCC emails that Russia could hack in 2016 and turned them into attack ads.

But this time, they may have bitten off a little more than they can chew. It's one thing to hack a political committee, but it's quite another to hack the United States government. If this FOIA is faked and the materials were either leaked or stolen, CLF is going to be exposed in about 12 hours. And even if someone at the Post Office really did fuck up and send them Spanberger's unredacted file, they got *literally nothing* out of it but a giant black eye.

She pitched in for a high school teacher on maternity leave? PFFFFT.

The district is historically safe for the GOP, but Cook Political has moved the race from Leans Republican to Toss Up. And Tea Party dipshit Dave Brat is running downballot from infamous white supremacist senatorial candidate Cory Stewart. Meanwhile Spanberger is riding on Tim Kaine's popular coattails in a district that Trump only took by 50 percent. *No wonder they're scared!*

U.S. Postal Service reportedly gave GOP group protected file on ex-CIA officer

The U.S. Postal Service handed conservative opposition-research group America Rising the privacy-protected security clearance application of former CIA officer Abigail Spanberger, the Democrat challenging Rep. Dave Brat (R) in Virginia's 7th Congressional District, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, *BuzzFeed News* reports. America Rising gave the unredacted document to House Republican super PAC the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has used information from it to target Spanberger, *The New York Times* says. Spanberger has sent the CLF a cease-and-desist order. Before joining the CIA, Spanberger worked at the USPS Postal Inspection Service, and she filled out similar forms for both jobs. The extensive and invasive security applications are supposed to be shielded from FOIA requests.

Ex-CIA House candidate accuses GOP super PAC of obtaining her security application

By Megan Keller

Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer running for Congress as a Democrat, has accused a GOP super PAC, the Congressional Leadership Fund (CLF), of obtaining her federal security clearance application improperly and then using the information for political purposes.

"I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document," Spanberger wrote in a cease-and-desist letter to the super PAC's executive director Corry Bliss, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

In her letter, Spanberger demanded that the CLF destroy all copies of her application form and stop using the information.

Spanberger, who is in a congressional race against Rep. Dave Brat (R-Va.), wrote in her letter that she had "clear evidence" that the CLF had given her application to "at least one news outlet."

The super PAC denied Spanberger's allegations in a statement Tuesday, calling it "a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background."

CLF said it gained Spanberger's application through a Freedom of Information Act request, which it included in its statement. According to CLF, another GOP research group, America Rising, filed the request with the United States Post Office (USPS). The application was reportedly one of two she filled out while applying for jobs with USPS and the CIA.

In the statement, CLF spokeswoman Courtney Alexander said, "CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different."

The CLF also released a part of the application with some personal information redacted, pointing to Spanberger's work at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the statement says has radical leanings.

Spanberger's campaign lawyer Graham Wilson told the Times, "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act."

Spanberger told the Times that she took the English teacher job at the Islamic Saudi Academy as a temporary position while she was waiting to hear back on her background check for a conditional offer at the CIA.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how CLF got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first

place,” Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) told the Times. “But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling.”

Ex-CIA Officer and Candidate Says PAC Got Her Security-Clearance Application

A former CIA officer now running for Congress as a Democrat has accused a Republican super PAC of “improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application” and “using it for political purposes.” *The New York Times* reports that Abigail Spanberger, who is challenging Rep. David Brat (R-VA), sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund to “destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.” Spanberger alleges the PAC had shared its content with “at least one news outlet.” The PAC responded that it had obtained her application through a Freedom of Information Act request, and released a part of the form—only redacting Spanberger’s personal information. “I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document,” she said. Spanberger also told the *Times* she suspected the PAC wanted to politically exploit the fact that she taught at a “private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia” for a short time. “I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted,” she said. “I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security.”

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC; Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC; Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: updated Media monitoring FOIA 3rd report
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Latest monitoring report.

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: updated Media monitoring FOIA 3rd report

Dave see attached6 stories

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC
(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image014.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>
[cid:image004.jpg@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>>
[cid:image016.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/usps>>
[cid:image011.jpg@01CFA75B.C8BA5170] <<http://youtube.com/usps>>
[cid:image001.jpg@01CF5A21.85CEFFF0] <<http://instagram.com/uspostalservice>>
[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 1:23 PM
To: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC; Matyas, Emily A - Washington, DC; Hallums, Kimberly D - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: updated Media monitoring FOIA 3rd report
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Please cross reference with daily report and the one we sent this morning

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6) Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)
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Dave see attached6 stories

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC
(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2):(b)(6)

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[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Social Listening & Insights - C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate and the Release of Her Security Application
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image017.png; image018.png; image019.png; image020.png; image021.png; image024.png; image025.png; image026.png; image027.png; image028.png; image029.png; image030.png; image031.png; image032.png; image033.png; image034.png; image035.png; image036.png; image037.png; image038.png; image039.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.png; image010.jpg; image011.png; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image014.png

latest

Nicholas J. Sucich
Manager, Digital Communications
United States Postal Service, HQ

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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Follow USPS | [cid:image001.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://usps.com/news>>

[cid:image002.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<https://www.facebook.com/USPS>>

[cid:image003.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>

[cid:image004.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>>

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[cid:image008.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(5);(b)(6)

Social Listening & Insights - C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate and the Release of Her Security Application

Data analysis

- There have been 81 mentions of Abigail Spanberger for an estimated reach of 55.2k.
- While the New York Times article came out last night, this story did not start to trend until this morning. Coverage peaked at 63 mentions today following a tweet from a BuzzFeed journalist. Coverage appears to be trending upwards.
- This story has drawn the most interest on Twitter. Twitter has accounted for 79% of mentions and 49% of reach.

News

- News coverage was mostly informative in nature and did not express favorability to any party involved in the allegations. The only outlets that indicated an opinion were the Congressional Leadership Fund and Blue Virginia.
 - o Blue Virginia provided a full copy of Abigail Spanberger's statement in which she voiced her displeasure that any "political group would improperly obtain a copy" of her unredacted National Security Questionnaire. Commentary was not enabled on the site.
 - o Whereas the Congressional Leadership Fund described her "desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background." The article also provided an image of the letter from confirmed USPS employee, Pamela Gabriel, which accompanied the Official Personnel Folder sent to the American Rising Corporation on July 30. Commentary was not enabled on the site. (see bottom of report for letter and info on postal employee)
- The Richmond Times Dispatch focused more on Spanberger's work at the Islamic school, attributing it as the motivation for the FOIA request, and providing a timeline of events. It states that the alleged incident occurred on July 9 when "the Congressional Leadership Fund sent reporters a letter." Then on July 30, "according to CLF, the National Personnel Records Center forwarded the

request to the U.S. Postal Service, which responded by providing the personnel file.” Comments on the article were unable to be viewed without a subscription.

- Comments under the NYT article mainly focused on the ethics of the request and the process “get information this way and to distribute it.”

- o Two readers condemned the Postal Service writing “if the information was indeed obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request then the blame is on the agency that supplied it unredacted. The PAC was trying to do research on a candidate and went after a reasonable source of information. Get mad at the Postal Service, not the PAC.”

- o The second concurred replying, “shame on whoever disseminated this document.”

- Alternet’s reporting also received commentary; however, they were not relevant to USPS. Instead the commenters argued over which political party was more corrupt.

- The Mic Network Inc. included in its reporting that this is not the first time CLF was accused of obtaining information on competitors in a “shady manner.” It went on to reference an incident in 2016 where “the PAC used information from emails that were released as part of Russia’s hacking of Democratic candidates in a handful of House contests.” There were no comments on the article.

- The Hill published an article which was similar in tone and content as the New York Times article. Majority of the commentary focused on other hot button political issues. Comments that focused on USPS expressed confusion as to how the Postal Service is involved and questioned the confidentiality of federal government applications and background check forms.

- o One person commented “The Post Office? Sorry, CLF, but that’s not to whom FOIA requests are sent. They may be MAILED via the USPS, but that’s about the only relevance to an FOIA request. Big, fat, STUPID, fail.”

- o Another person said “You can file the request but it should not have been honored. The only thing they should have given was the dates of employment.”

- BuzzFeed News wrote an article discussing the perceived unprecedented move by USPS to release the entire federal security clearance application of a former employee given “the SF-86 form is an extensive and probing questionnaire that asks applicants for all manner of personal background details.” A quote from FOIA and security clearance expert attorney Bradley Moss stated that “someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired if they truly managed to release this file without noticing the Standard Form 86 paperwork in the file, there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer.” BuzzFeed reported that they reached out to USPS for comment but did not immediately receive a response. There was no relevant commentary.

Social media

- There have been a number of trending tweets (20+ retweets or 50+ likes) from notable political analysts on Twitter. Sentiment was varied.

- A Buzzfeed journalist blamed USPS “We confirmed that the US Postal Service released via #FOIA (and ikely f**** up doing so).”

- A National security lawyer with 50k followers blamed someone at the USPS FOIA office, "Someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired. If they truly managed to release this file without noticing the standard form 86 paperwork in the file there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer."

- Norm Eisen, a Sr. Fellow at the Brookings Institute tweeted "It is a serious crime to illegally disclose these docs. Implausible that Post Office produced this in unredacted form. But if that's the case, let America Rising show the production letter & attachment to prove it. Otherwise we will draw our inferences"

- o A former congressional candidate, Dr. Dena Grayson speculated that the documents may have been released by hackers, "There is NO WAY that a federal agency should release an UNREDACTED version of a Congressional candidate's SF-86 national security clearance form. So WHO gave it to the PAC? The US postal service via a FOIA request, or hackers from #China or elsewhere!?"

- Private citizens commenting on Twitter had an overwhelming sense of confusion that USPS would have any involvement in holding sensitive clearance forms. Users assigned blame to the PAC involved in opposition research, and not USPS.

- A user who identified as a USPS employee tweeted "I'm a USPS employee-- under FOIA, USPS must make records available to the public unless covered by exemption. However, when requesting records about individual other than self, that person needs to complete a Privacy Waiver and Authorization. The PAC is lying about its source." We could not find this employee in the directory.

- One commenter noted recent meetings between the President Trump and USPS "Trump's has recently been meeting with postal service." There was only one instance of a commenter making this connection.

- Abigail Spanberger released a statement. It did not mention USPS.

- For a complete list of recent verbatims, with retweets and similar mentions removed, please see the attached Word document.

Cumulative data

A search of Abigail Spanberger's name yields 81 mentions for an estimated reach of 55.2k. Coverage appears to be trending upwards:

[cid:image001.png@01D43F7E.A1B79820]

Twitter has the most mentions (79%) and the widest reach (49%)

[cid:image002.png@01D43F7E.A1B79820]

News

- Richmond Times-Dispatch: Conservative PAC releases document on Spanberger teaching at Saudi-funded school: https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/conservative-pac-releases-document-on-spanberger-teaching-at-saudi-funded/article_9f25ad24-4816-5872-b37f-a72e3c4fba8c.html (Comments not available)

- Alternet: Ex-CIA Democratic Candidate Slams GOP Super PAC for Alleged Breach After It Obtains Her Secret Security Clearance Records: https://www.alternet.org/comments/congressional-leadership-fund-allegedly-obtained-abigail-spanberger-clearance#disqus_thread (No relevant commentary)

- Daily Beast: Ex-CIA Officer and Candidate Says PAC Got Her Security-Clearance Application: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/ex-cia-officer-and-candidate-says-pac-got-her-security-clearance-application> (No comments)

- The Daily Progress: PAC attacks Spanberger's work at Saudi-backed school using file she says was obtained illegally: https://www.dailyprogress.com/news/politics/pac-attacks-spanberger-s-work-at-saudi-backed-school-using/article_052370c8-ab31-11e8-a41c-9f4a3b6dd71c.html (No comments)

- The Week: Major GOP super PAC appears to be using CIA officer-turned-Democratic candidate's security form in campaign: <http://theweek.com/speedreads/792988/major-gop-super-pac-appears-using-cia-officerturneddemocratic-candidates-security-form-campaign> (No comments)

- The Week: The U.S. Postal Service handed GOP opposition researchers ex-CIA officer's private federal security application: <http://theweek.com/speedreads/793000/postal-service-handed-gop-opposition-researchers-excia-officers-private-federal-security-application> (No comments)

- The Mic Network Inc: Today in Trump's America: Andrew Gillum wins stunning upset in Florida Democratic governor primary: <https://mic.com/articles/190988/today-in-trumps-america-andrew-gillum-wins-stunning-upset-in-florida-democratic-governor-primary#.woUUI9OLO> (No comments)

"CLF claims it obtained the security clearance form through a Freedom of Information Act request with the U.S. Postal Service."

- Buzz Feed News: In Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application to Republican Group: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/gracewyler/usps-releases-cia-officer-security-clearance-application> (No comments)

- o Repost: The USA Bulletin: <http://theusabulletin.com/2018/08/29/in-unprecedented-move-the-us-postal-service-released-a-former-cia-officers-security-application-to-republican-group/> (No comments)

- Blue Virginia: Abigail Spanberger's Statement on the Acquisition of her Full, Unredacted National Security Questionnaire by the Congressional Leadership Fund: <https://bluevirginia.us/2018/08/abigail-spanbergers-statement-on-the-acquisition-of-her-full-unredacted-national-security-questionnaire-by-the-congressional-leadership-fund> (No comments)

- Congressional Leadership Fund: CLF ISSUES STATEMENT: WHAT IS ABIGAIL SPANBERGER HIDING: <https://web.archive.org/web/20180829010644/https://congressionalleadershipfund.org/clf-issues-statement-what-is-abigail-spanberger-hiding/> <https://web.archive.org/web/20180829010644/https://congressionalleadershipfund.org/clf-issues-statement-what-is-abigail-spanberger-hiding/> (No comments)

- New York Times: C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

Noteworthy comments:

[cid:image017.png@01D43F87.E92F6800]

[cid:image018.png@01D43F87.E92F6800]


[cid:image019.png@01D43F87.E92F6800]

· The Hill: Ex-CIA House candidate accuses GOP super PAC of obtaining her security application: <http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/404101-ex-cia-house-candidate-accuses-gop-super-pac-of-obtaining-her-security>

Noteworthy comments (on The Hill article) [cid:image020.png@01D43F87.E92F6800]

[cid:image021.png@01D43F87.E92F6800]

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)



Information regarding employee who issued FOIA response Employee Information:
[cid:image038.png@01D43F92.1FD2F0C0]

Image of the Letter:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180829010644im_/https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png]

Link to article sharing this image:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180829010644/https://congressionalleadershipfund.org/clf-issues-statement-what-is-abigail-spanberger-hiding/>

WASHINGTON – In a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background, Virginia's 7th Congressional District Democratic nominee, Abigail Spanberger, today sent a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund (@CLFSuperPAC [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D4de5cc4024-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=sPC6lnUCacOjVaFKdgMPRIVefeYKhFjn-RudOPql5DE&e=>) – which her campaign then shared with select members of the media – threatening legal action over information about Spanberger that was obtained through legal channels. CLF is responding by releasing a copy [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7a3e235be0-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=dSJtLP5o_3sJEb3qXdXUdEZM4eNp0f1eR-uNrDsHVNQ&e=> of that letter to voters in Virginia's 7th Congressional District as well as

documentation from the Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) and the records that were obtained from the United States Postal Service as the result of that request.

This included information about Spanberger's tenure working at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the Associated Press reported was dubbed "Terror High" after 12 U.S. Senators and a federal commission wanted to shut it down. Spanberger's former employer produced a number of well-known terrorists including Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, valedictorian of the academy in 1999, who was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison. This led U.S. Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer to issue a press release in 2005 calling for a full-scale probe [congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D7b8de8ece6-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQI&s=5q-HiiSb0YqJ7YG_MVvuWEcYU7YbRut7jaWOMsrZeVw&e=> of the controversial Islamic school and questioning whether the Islamic Saudi Academy was "another madrassa." In addition, CLF is redacting the document to exclude personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers, even though this information was released by the USPS as part of the response to the FOIA request.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/b60157f1-3f72-4e94-955a-47aa397b6373.png]

CLF spokesperson Courtney Alexander made the following statement about Spanberger's politically-motivated gambit today:

* "It should surprise no one that Ms. Spanberger would want to hide from voters that she worked at a school that produced some of the world's most dangerous terrorists. CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different. That she's threatening legal action, however, should raise serious questions for voters about what else she is trying to hide. For any interested parties, CLF is happy to provide redacted copies of the information Ms. Spanberger is trying to hide from voters in Virginia."

BACKGROUND:

* On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

* By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

* On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/e864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6/images/f774c7fe-3548-4047-bce8-0e5424f781a9.png]

[https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-twitter-48.png][congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-manage.com]<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__congressionalleadershipfund.us15.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De864a80a205b3f2f2808f4cd6-26id-3D775bc33869-26e-3D09970d7f05&d=DwMGaQ&c=RAhzPLrCAq19eJdrcQiUVEwFYoMRqGDAXQ_puw5tYjg&r=2XXorp_vlgQ1RvAT5OFxm8ixRX5vHs_HARdsq357ik6M&m=-T7nDuZ3sNG28s5Gb5iRoqunBRkVKK9_QKXYupYwgQl&s=-VBbe6d_ycpVnt-eHAlqwkIEgVfR2R0_XjmOnRcQBWk&e=>

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1747 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

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Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Cc: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - New York, NY; Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC; Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC; Coleman, David P - Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Washington Post story on Spanberger issue
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Thx Dave

On Aug 29, 2018, at 2:39 PM, Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

wrote:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/ex-cia-officer-running-for-congress-says-gop-obtained-her-unredacted-personnel-file-with-sensitive-information/2018/08/29/453b4878-ab97-11e8-a8d7-0f63ab8b1370_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.390085317eac

Virginia Politics<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/>>

Ex-CIA officer running for Congress says GOP obtained her unredacted personnel file with sensitive information By Laura Vozzella<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/people/laura-vozzella/>>

August 29 at 2:14 PM

RICHMOND —Democrat Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer challenging Rep. Dave Brat (R) in Virginia's 7th Congressional district, says a conservative super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan illegally obtained sensitive personal information about her from a questionnaire she submitted to the federal government years ago while seeking security clearance.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and in anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," Democrat Abigail Spanberger, wrote in a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund, in which she demanded that the group destroy any copies of the form, which included her unredacted Social Security number.

CLF said it obtained a copy of the questionnaire legally — through a Freedom of Information request submitted by a GOP consultant. It provided a copy of the FOIA request and a reply from the Postal Service saying it was providing her personnel file in response. Spanberger worked as a postal inspector, job that also required security clearance, before joining the CIA.

The release of Spanberger's full security questionnaire was first reported by The New York Times. CLF suggested that Spanberger was trying distract from a fact of her work history — that she had once taught English at Islamic Saudi Academy, a Northern Virginia school dubbed "Terror High" because some of its students later joined al Qaeda.

David Partenheimer, a spokesman for the Postal Service, said he was looking into the matter but did not have an immediate response.

Brat's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Brat and Spanberger are engaged in an increasingly competitive race in the 7th District, a formerly solid GOP seat which the Cook Political Report has moved into "tossup" territory.

Brat won the seat four years ago after pulling off a shocking upset

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/cantor-faces-tea-party-fury-in-his-back-yard/2014/05/10/0f9df00c-d884-11e3-8a78-8fe50322a72c_story.html?utm_term=.227543a6b240> in

the GOP primary, snagging the nomination from then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. But he faces stiff headwinds this year given President Trump's unpopularity in the largely suburban district as well as the fact that some Cantor supporters remain cool to him, and his past comments that enraged some female constituents.

[Rep. Dave Brat: "The women are in my grill no matter where I go"] Spanberger mentions on the campaign trail that she once worked as a substitute teacher at a "private school," but that hardly seemed like the most intriguing part of the former CIA officer's biography. She filled in for a teacher was on maternity leave during the 2002-2003 school year, a job she took after she'd gotten a conditional job offer from the CIA and was waiting out the long security-clearance process.

Her first inkling that someone was looking into her teaching stint came in early August, when a campaign staffer happened to get a call from a Republican pollster, Jones said.

"One of the questions was along the lines, 'Would you or would you not support Spanberger [if] she worked at an Islamic Saudi school funded by the Royal Family,'" said her spokesman, Justin Jones. Her first thought was, "Someone has my SF86," Jones said.

She got confirmation of that on August 16, when an Associated Press reporter approached her and Jones at an event, saying he had received copies of the form from CLF on "background," meaning the material had been offered on condition that the source not be revealed. The reporter said that AP decided to break the background agreement after its lawyers reviewed the material and concluded that CLF could not have obtained it legally, Jones said.

"This is awkward, but we got an oppo dump from CLF," Jones recalled the reporter saying. "Our legal team reviewed it and are willing to break [the] background [agreement] because they had no capacity to obtain this legally."

Jones said the reporter then pulled the SF86 up on his phone and Spanberger saw enough to confirm that it was hers. Jones said that in follow-up emails with the reporter, the campaign was able to confirm that the form contained Spanberger's unredacted social security number and medical history. "It's the whole, entire document. It's the whole shebang," Jones said. "You're putting your faith in the government that they're going to protect this information, so it's an attack on civil servants. It's a national security risk to some degree."

AP spokesman Bryan Baldwin declined to comment on that account.

"As a matter of long-standing policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its newsgathering methods or sourcing," Baldwin said. "In this instance the AP did not publish a story on this topic."

In 2002, Spanberger had gotten a conditional job offer with the CIA, contingent on her passing an exhaustive background check. She also sought work as a Postal Inspector and for both jobs, filled out a questionnaire, known as SF-86, as part of that process. She then looked around for other work since it could take years for clearance to come through.

She waited tables and then heard, from a fellow waitress who taught part-time at Islamic Saudi Academy, that there was an opening there for an English teacher while the instructor took maternity leave. Spanberger took the job, working there from 2002 to 2003.

But her work there did not stop her from receiving a security clearance and employment. She updated her SF-86 to note that she had left waitressing for the teaching job, identifying the school by name. She later got a job as a postal inspector, and finally started with the CIA in 2006.

On Tuesday, Spanberger sent a letter to CLF threatening legal action if it did not "destroy every copy ... of my unredacted SF86" and agree not to share any information obtained from it.

CLF responded by releasing a copy of a Freedom of Information request that America Rising Corp., a consultant to CLF, submitted to the National Personnel Records Center July 9. The center on July 12 forwarded that request to the Postal Service, which responded July 30 with Spanberger's "entire personnel folder." CLF contends the material provided included her SF86 form.

"By attempting to divert attention from the fact that she was employed by a Saudi government-funded high school that produced two students who were accused of preparing for suicide bombings, as well as a valedictorian who was convicted on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda

terrorist network as part of a conspiracy to assassinate then-President George W. Bush, Abigail Spanberger is trying to stifle vital political speech about her qualifications for public office, which is protected under the First Amendment,” CLF wrote in a reply to Spanberger’s campaign. The school later became highly controversial because a number of students went on to become terrorists. CLF notes that Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, the school’s 1999 valedictorian, was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Emily’s List, the political group trying to elect more Democratic women, accused CLF of “weaponizing” Spanberger’s security questionnaire.

“It’s the season for political attacks and Abigail Spanberger knew they were coming. What’s shocking is that Paul Ryan’s super PAC, the Congressional Leadership Fund, would cross ethical lines in using information inappropriately obtained from her security clearance application and weaponizing it as a political attack,” Christina Reynolds, a spokeswoman for the organization said in a statement. “The Republicans are clearly willing to do anything to win, but this shameful act is beyond the pale and every Republican currently benefiting from CLF’s attack ads should have to answer for their actions.”

Dave Partenheimer
Manager, Public Relations
U.S. Postal Service

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

<image001.jpg><<http://usps.com/news>><image002.jpg><<http://facebook.com/usps>><image003.jpg><<http://linkedin.com/company/usps>><image004.jpg><<http://www.twitter.com/usps>><image005.jpg><<http://youtube.com/usps>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Simpson, Mary Ann - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:44 PM
To: Pagano, Catherine V - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Postal Service FOIA Mishap in VA Election

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

(b)(5)

From: Hagen, Nikolaj O - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:39 PM
To: '_GOV RELATIONS MANAGERS <(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)>' Hanlon, Bryan T
- Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Cc: '_GOV RELATIONS POLICY (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Subject: Postal Service FOIA Mishap in VA Election

A former CIA officer and Postal Inspector running for Congress says that her security clearance was handed to an opposing Super PAC by the Postal Service.

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

"Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion."

"The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm."

Sent from my iPhone

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Subject: Media Monitoring FOIA Report 4th report
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png; media monitoring FOIA.docx

Dave,

See attached (7 stories)

David P. Coleman
Public Relations Representative
U.S. Postal Service
Headquarters, Washington DC

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image014.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>
[cid:image004.jpg@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>>
[cid:image016.png@01CFA75D.6F088460] <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/usps>>
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[cid:image001.jpg@01CF5A21.85CEFFF0] <<http://instagram.com/uspostalservice>>
[cid:image008.png@01CFEDFE.F6631B40] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC (b)(3), 39 USC 410 (c)(2), (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:57 PM
To: Walker, Janice D - Washington, DC; Adams, Jeffery A - Washington, DC; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - New York, NY; Sucich, Nicholas J - Washington, DC; Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC
Cc: Coleman, David P - Washington, DC; Walton, Carl A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Media Monitoring FOIA Report 4th report
Attachments: media monitoring FOIA.docx

This report includes the Washington Post story.

Media Tracking 4th Report

Links to Stories:

Nytimes.com: [C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application](#)

Buzzfeednews.com: [In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group](#)

Wonkette.com: [Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!](#)

Theweek.com: [U.S. Postal Service reportedly gave GOP group protected file on ex-CIA Officer](#)

Thehill.com: [Ex-CIA House candidate accuses GOP super PAC of obtaining her security application](#)

TheDailyBeast.com: [Ex-CIA Officer and Candidate Says PAC Got Her Security-Clearance Application](#)

Washingtonpost.com: [Ex-CIA officer running for Congress says GOP obtained her unredacted personnel file with sensitive information](#)

Full Text of Stories:

Nytimes.com

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application

By Michael Tackett
• Aug. 28, 2018

WASHINGTON — A former C.I.A. officer running for Congress accused a super PAC aligned with Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Tuesday of improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application — a highly sensitive document containing extensive personal information — and then using it for political purposes.

Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," she wrote.

The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm.

"C.L.F. follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different," Courtney Alexander, a spokeswoman for the group, said in the statement.

The group also released a portion of the security clearance application, blacking out some personal information.

Graham Wilson, a lawyer for Ms. Spanberger's campaign, said that explanation, which laid the mistake on the Postal Service, did not ring true. "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act," he said.

Ms. Spanberger, 39, said in the letter that she had "clear evidence" that the Congressional Leadership Fund had provided a copy of her security clearance application to "at least one news outlet," adding, "I am not aware of any legal way that C.L.F. could have this document." In an interview, she said that she suspected that the group was trying to exploit a brief time when she taught at a private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia. The super PAC validated that suspicion in its response, going on at some length to try to link the school — called "Terror High" in an earlier news article — to terrorist activity.

The application was one of two that she completed for government positions, for a law enforcement job at the Postal Service and for her position with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At a political event this month, Ms. Spanberger said she was approached by a reporter for The Associated Press, who showed her a copy of the security form and said the leadership fund had provided the document on a background basis, meaning that the source would typically not be named. The reporter pulled up a copy of the form on his email, and Ms. Spanberger said she was "100 percent" certain it was hers.

The forms ask for detailed personal information about work and health and also include vital data like a Social Security number.

"I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted," she said. "I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security."

Ms. Spanberger, a first-time candidate, served in the C.I.A. as a covert officer overseas for eight years, much of it investigating international terrorism cases, and has used that part of her biography in her appeal to voters in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which includes the suburbs of Richmond and extends north to far reaches of exurban Washington.

She has made the race, which is rated a tossup by the Cook Political Report, surprisingly competitive.

"When I decided to run for Congress, I took stringent measures for my campaign because, as a former C.I.A. operative, I assumed I would be the target of attacks," she said in the letter. "But I expected those attacks to come from foreign adversaries, not domestic groups associated with members of Congress, like C.L.F."

Even before being approached by a reporter, Ms. Spanberger said in the interview that she had become suspicious that the application had been leaked because Republican-aligned groups conducting "push polling" in the race had been asking respondents whether they knew she had once taught at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., an international baccalaureate program.

One of her supporters received a call from the polling company and reported that she was asked if she would be less likely to support Ms. Spanberger if she knew that the candidate had taught at a school funded by the Saudi royal family that had "numerous students arrested for terrorism," Ms. Spanberger said.

A recent graduate from the University of Virginia at the time, Ms. Spanberger returned to the United States in 2002 after teaching in Germany and earning a master's degree. She applied for a job at the C.I.A. that year and was told in December that she had a conditional offer pending her background check, which she was told could take at least six months.

She waited tables in the interim, and a colleague asked her if she would be interested in a temporary job teaching English at the academy to cover for another instructor's maternity leave, Ms. Spanberger said.

As she awaited final word from the C.I.A., she took a job at the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service. She said she filled out the federal forms for both jobs at about the same time. She also said she informed the C.I.A. each time she took on new employment.

National security experts said that the unauthorized release of such a highly confidential document is particularly troubling if it turns out to not be an isolated episode.

"It calls for a tremendous amount of extremely private, personal information, and so to the person whose information is at stake, it is extremely significant," said David Kris, a founder of Culper Partners and a former assistant attorney general for national security.

Ms. Spanberger noted that she, like millions of others, had been notified that her personal information may have been compromised in 2015 during a breach at the federal Office of Personnel Management. American officials have said privately that they believe that the hacking could be traced to the Chinese government.

Ms. Spanberger is among more than a dozen Democratic candidates this year with strong background in national security through service in the military or at the intelligence agencies.

Representative Ben Ray Luján, Democrat of New Mexico and the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, sent a letter on Tuesday to more than a dozen candidates in his party making them aware of Ms. Spanberger's complaint and urging caution.

"This is an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form," Mr. Luján said.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Luján said. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

The Associated Press declined to comment directly on the issue. "As a matter of longstanding policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its news gathering methods or sourcing," said Bryan Baldwin, a spokesman for the news organization. "In this instance, The A.P. did not publish a story on this topic."

President Trump's persistent attacks on the intelligence agencies, notably in connection with its assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign to help him, have given rise to complaints that a "deep state" exists in the government that is working to undermine the president.

But Ms. Spanberger is looking at that from the opposite perspective.

"I personally don't see that they only have my documents," Ms. Spanberger said. "I just happen to be the canary in the coal mine and we had someone bring it to my attention."

She added, "I have nothing to hide. If they need a canary in the coal mine, I'm glad it's me."
Nytimes.com

Buzzfeednews.com

In An Unprecedented Move, The US Postal Service Released A Former CIA Officer's Security Application To A Republican Group

By Grace Wyler & Jason Leopold

The former officer, Democratic candidate Abigail Spanberger, has suggested the information was released for partisan purposes. Documents show USPS was responding to a FOIA request from research group America Rising.

The United States Postal Service has released the entire federal security clearance application of a former CIA officer running for Congress, in what experts say is a highly unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, move, given the extensive, highly personal nature of the information contained in such documents.

In an [interview with the New York Times](#) published Tuesday, the former officer, Abigail Spanberger, accused the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, of improperly obtaining the document, and suggested that the Trump administration may have leaked the information for partisan purposes.

But BuzzFeed News can confirm that an unredacted copy of the federal security clearance application was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed by America Rising, a research group allied with the Republican Party, which then shared it with the Congressional Leadership Fund. Spanberger, a Democrat, is challenging Republican Rep. David Brat in a Virginia congressional race that has become surprisingly competitive going into the fall midterm campaign.

Documents viewed by BuzzFeed News show that the request for Spanberger's entire civilian personnel file was submitted early last month to the National Personnel Records Center, a division of the National Archives. The request, which sought records related to the former CIA officer's employment dates, salaries, title, and position descriptions, did not explicitly mention the federal security clearance application, known as an SF-86.

The FOIA request specifically sought records from Spanberger's official personnel folder from the US Postal Inspection Service, where she used to work. America Rising's FOIA request included the first five numbers of Spanberger's social security number, which the group obtained from LexisNexis, BuzzFeed News has learned.

The documents show that on July 12, three days after the FOIA request was submitted, the NPRC notified America Rising that the FOIA request had been forwarded to the US Postal Service for processing, and that some information could be released under the FOIA "without consent from the individual."

On July 30, the USPS provided America Rising with Spanberger's entire personnel folder, including the SF-86.

"America Rising submitted a standard Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking information from the National Personnel Records Center which was referred to the United States Postal Service, an independent agency, which provided us responsive documents," America Rising CEO Joe Pounder said in a statement to BuzzFeed News. "Why the USPS disclosed certain information in response to the FOIA is for their response. At the end of the day, this Democrat candidate is trying to block the one thing FOIA is meant to provide, transparency."

BuzzFeed News has reached out to USPS for comment on why the unredacted file was released, but did not immediately receive a response.

According to the Times, the SF-86 is one of two security clearance applications Spanberger submitted when she first applied to work for the federal government in 2002: one to the CIA and one for a law enforcement job at USPS, which she took while waiting to hear back about the job at the intelligence agency.

The decision by USPS to release the unredacted document was unusual, FOIA and security clearance expert Bradley Moss, an attorney with Mark S. Zaid, P.C., told BuzzFeed News. The SF-86 form is an extensive and probing questionnaire that asks applicants for all manner of personal background details, including where the applicant has lived and worked, their history of drug and alcohol use, and a number of other questions that could yield potentially embarrassing facts, he said.

Spanberger has said that Republicans seemed to be looking for information related to her brief stint as a teacher at the Islamic Saudi Academy, a private international baccalaureate program in Alexandria, Virginia, funded by the Saudi Arabian government.

"Someone at the USPS FOIA office is getting fired," Moss said. "If they truly managed to release this file without noticing the Standard Form 86 paperwork in the file, there is justifiable cause to fire that FOIA officer."

"SF-86 paperwork is categorically privacy-protected and to my knowledge has never been released through FOIA to a third party absent a privacy waiver," he added.

Spanberger's campaign and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have called the release of the information troubling, and suggested that the documents may have been improperly released by the Trump administration, noting the president's persistent attacks on US intelligence agencies and personnel.

In a letter to congressional candidates seen by the Times, DCCC Chair Ben Ray Lujan wrote that Spanberger's SF-86 was "an official government document that only President Trump's administration should have in its possession in its unredacted form."

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how C.L.F. got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first place," Mr. Lujan conceded. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!

By Five Dollar Feminist

Yesterday the [Times](#) reported that Paul Ryan's pet SuperPAC got its hands on Virginia congressional candidate Abigail Spanberger's unredacted security clearance application, and is using it to pretend the former CIA agent worked in a madrassa. Because naturally those unpatriotic bigots would take allegedly hacked data and try to paint a covert counterterrorism operative as a goddamn terrorist. *Of fucking course!*

Leaving aside the wisdom of using government personnel records to smear a federal agent in a district with huge numbers of Defense Department employees who have filled out the exact same form with the expectation that *that shit is private*, just how the hell did the Congressional Leadership Fund get their grubby paws on a document that's illegal to release under the [Privacy Act](#)?

Well, CLF has a very good answer for that question. It's the darnedest thing! They were walking down the street the other day, and Ms. Spanberger's entire, unredacted SF86 form just fell off the back of a truck! *More or less.*

On July 9, 2018, America Rising Corp. submitted a FOIA request to the National Personnel Records Center "for access to certain records contained in the official civilian personnel file of former federal employee Abigail Spanberger. Specifically, this request seeks records reflecting Ms. Spanberger's employment dates, annual salaries, title, and position description."

By letter dated July 12, 2018, NPRC/NARA forwarded the America Rising Corp. request to the United States Postal Service.

On July 30, 2018, USPS responded to America Rising's request with their complete personnel file ("entire official personnel folder"), which included Spanberger's SF-86

Yeah, their story is that their oppo researchers submitted a FOIA request to the Post Office, where Spanberger had applied in to work in the security division in 2002, and the USPS happily overnighed them her entire, unredacted personnel file -- social security number, medical records, and all.

- Spanberger sent CLF a cease and desist letter saying, "I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document." To which the PAC responded, NUH UH TERRORIST LADY!

Just to be clear, Spanberger was a substitute AP English teacher at a school for Saudi kids in Alexandria while she was waiting for her security clearance to be processed, after which she went on to spend eight years working for the CIA. That's literally all these fuckers got on her.

But back to that "personnel file," which CLF is still swearing the Post Office overnighed them in response to a FOIA request.

(b)(3); 39 USC 410 (c)(2); (b)(5); (b)(6)



According to former director of the United States Office of Government Ethics, Walter Shaub, the SF86 isn't even a part of a government personnel file.

CLF's oppo goons may have put in a FOIA request with the Post Office, but we're highly skeptical that's how they netted Spanberger's SF86. And so is NatSec Twitter!

If we had to guess, we'd speculate that this form was stolen in a 2015 Chinese hack of the federal Office of Personnel Management, and someone is attempting to launder it through a recent FOIA request. But would the very fine people at the Congressional Leadership Fund do a lowdown, dirty thing like that? *You bet your ass they would!* Those are the same guys who happily gobbled up all the stolen DCCC emails that Russia could hack in 2016 and turned them into attack ads.

But this time, they may have bitten off a little more than they can chew. It's one thing to hack a political committee, but it's quite another to hack the United States government. If this FOIA is faked and the materials were either leaked or stolen, CLF is going to be exposed in about 12 hours. And even if someone at the Post Office really did fuck up and send them Spanberger's unredacted file, they got *literally nothing* out of it but a giant black eye.

She pitched in for a high school teacher on maternity leave? PFFFFT.

The district is historically safe for the GOP, but Cook Political has moved the race from Leans Republican to Toss Up. And Tea Party dipshit Dave Brat is running downballot from infamous white supremacist senatorial candidate Cory Stewart. Meanwhile Spanberger is riding on Tim Kaine's popular coattails in a district that Trump only took by 50 percent. *No wonder they're scared!*

U.S. Postal Service reportedly gave GOP group protected file on ex-CIA officer

The U.S. Postal Service handed conservative opposition-research group America Rising the privacy-protected security clearance application of former CIA officer Abigail Spanberger, the Democrat challenging Rep. Dave Brat (R) in Virginia's 7th Congressional District, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, *BuzzFeed News* reports. America Rising gave the unredacted document to House Republican super PAC the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has used information from it to target Spanberger, *The New York Times* says. Spanberger has sent the CLF a cease-and-desist order. Before joining the CIA, Spanberger worked at the USPS Postal Inspection Service, and she filled out similar forms for both jobs. The extensive and invasive security applications are supposed to be shielded from FOIA requests.

Ex-CIA House candidate accuses GOP super PAC of obtaining her security application

By Megan Keller

Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer running for Congress as a Democrat, has accused a GOP super PAC, the Congressional Leadership Fund (CLF), of obtaining her federal security clearance application improperly and then using the information for political purposes.

"I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document," Spanberger wrote in a cease-and-desist letter to the super PAC's executive director Corry Bliss, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

In her letter, Spanberger demanded that the CLF destroy all copies of her application form and stop using the information.

Spanberger, who is in a congressional race against Rep. Dave Brat (R-Va.), wrote in her letter that she had "clear evidence" that the CLF had given her application to "at least one news outlet."

The super PAC denied Spanberger's allegations in a statement Tuesday, calling it "a desperate attempt to prevent Virginia voters from learning about her record and background."

CLF said it gained Spanberger's application through a Freedom of Information Act request, which it included in its statement. According to CLF, another GOP research group, America Rising, filed the request with the United States Post Office (USPS). The application was reportedly one of two she filled out while applying for jobs with USPS and the CIA.

In the statement, CLF spokeswoman Courtney Alexander said, "CLF follows the letter of the law in examining any candidate's background and Ms. Spanberger was no different."

The CLF also released a part of the application with some personal information redacted, pointing to Spanberger's work at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Northern Virginia, which the statement says has radical leanings.

Spanberger's campaign lawyer Graham Wilson told the Times, "In this unredacted form, this is not a document that the government can provide under the Privacy Act."

Spanberger told the Times that she took the English teacher job at the Islamic Saudi Academy as a temporary position while she was waiting to hear back on her background check for a conditional offer at the CIA.

"To be clear, we have no reason to believe that Republican groups have illegally obtained any of your personnel files, nor are we certain how CLF got Ms. Spanberger's document in the first

place," Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) told the Times. "But even the evidence of this isolated incident is deeply troubling."

Ex-CIA Officer and Candidate Says PAC Got Her Security-Clearance Application

A former CIA officer now running for Congress as a Democrat has accused a Republican super PAC of “improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application” and “using it for political purposes.” *The New York Times* reports that Abigail Spanberger, who is challenging Rep. David Brat (R-VA), sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund to “destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.” Spanberger alleges the PAC had shared its content with “at least one news outlet.” The PAC responded that it had obtained her application through a Freedom of Information Act request, and released a part of the form—only redacting Spanberger’s personal information. “I am not aware of any legal way that CLF could have this document,” she said. Spanberger also told the *Times* she suspected the PAC wanted to politically exploit the fact that she taught at a “private Islamic school funded by Saudi Arabia” for a short time. “I am proud of my background and my service, and not ashamed of the information I submitted,” she said. “I have nothing to hide in my background. But, as any American in a similar situation would be, I am concerned about my privacy and security.”

Ex-CIA officer running for Congress says GOP obtained her unredacted personnel file with sensitive information

By Laura Vozzella

August 29 at 2:14 PM

RICHMOND —Democrat Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer challenging Rep. Dave Brat (R) in Virginia's 7th Congressional district, says a conservative super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan illegally obtained sensitive personal information about her from a questionnaire she submitted to the federal government years ago while seeking security clearance.

"I write as a former civil servant and as an American, in shock and in anger, that you have tried to exploit my service to our country by exposing my most personal information in the name of politics," Democrat Abigail Spanberger, wrote in a letter to the Congressional Leadership Fund, in which she demanded that the group destroy any copies of the form, which included her unredacted Social Security number.

CLF said it obtained a copy of the questionnaire legally — through a Freedom of Information request submitted by a GOP consultant. It provided a copy of the FOIA request and a reply from the Postal Service saying it was providing her personnel file in response. Spanberger worked as a postal inspector, job that also required security clearance, before joining the CIA.

The release of Spanberger's full security questionnaire was first reported by The New York Times.

CLF suggested that Spanberger was trying distract from a fact of her work history — that she had once taught English at Islamic Saudi Academy, a Northern Virginia school dubbed "Terror High" because some of its students later joined al Qaeda.

David Partenheimer, a spokesman for the Postal Service, said he was looking into the matter but did not have an immediate response.

Brat's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Brat and Spanberger are engaged in an increasingly competitive race in the 7th District, a formerly solid GOP seat which the Cook Political Report has moved into "tossup" territory.

Brat won the seat four years ago after pulling off a shocking upset in the GOP primary, snagging the nomination from then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. But he faces stiff headwinds this year given President Trump's unpopularity in the largely suburban district as well as the fact that some Cantor supporters remain cool to him, and his past comments that enraged some female constituents.

[Rep. Dave Brat: "The women are in my grill no matter where I go"]

Spanberger mentions on the campaign trail that she once worked as a substitute teacher at a "private school," but that hardly seemed like the most intriguing part of the former CIA officer's biography. She filled in for a teacher who was on maternity leave during the 2002-2003 school year, a job she took after she'd gotten a conditional job offer from the CIA and was waiting out the long security-clearance process.

Her first inkling that someone was looking into her teaching stint came in early August, when a campaign staffer happened to get a call from a Republican pollster, Jones said.

"One of the questions was along the lines, 'Would you or would you not support Spanberger [if] she worked at an Islamic Saudi school funded by the Royal Family,'" said her spokesman, Justin Jones.

Her first thought was, "Someone has my SF86," Jones said.

She got confirmation of that on August 16, when an Associated Press reporter approached her and Jones at an event, saying he had received copies of the form from CLF on "background," meaning the material had been offered on condition that the source not be revealed. The reporter said that AP decided to break the background agreement after its lawyers reviewed the material and concluded that CLF could not have obtained it legally, Jones said.

"This is awkward, but we got an oppo dump from CLF," Jones recalled the reporter saying. "Our legal team reviewed it and are willing to break [the] background [agreement] because they had no capacity to obtain this legally."

Jones said the reporter then pulled the SF86 up on his phone and Spanberger saw enough to confirm that it was hers. Jones said that in follow-up emails with the reporter, the campaign was able to confirm that the form contained Spanberger's unredacted social security number and medical history.

"It's the whole, entire document. It's the whole shebang," Jones said. "You're putting your faith in the government that they're going to protect this information, so it's an attack on civil servants. It's a national security risk to some degree."

AP spokesman Bryan Baldwin declined to comment on that account.

"As a matter of long-standing policy, The Associated Press does not publicly discuss its newsgathering methods or sourcing," Baldwin said. "In this instance the AP did not publish a story on this topic."

In 2002, Spanberger had gotten a conditional job offer with the CIA, contingent on her passing an exhaustive background check. She also sought work as a Postal Inspector and for both jobs, filled out a questionnaire, known as SF-86, as part of that process. She then looked around for other work since it could take years for clearance to come through.

She waited tables and then heard, from a fellow waitress who taught part-time at Islamic Saudi Academy, that there was an opening there for an English teacher while the instructor took maternity leave. Spanberger took the job, working there from 2002 to 2003.

But her work there did not stop her from receiving a security clearance and employment. She updated her SF-86 to note that she had left waitressing for the teaching job, identifying the

school by name. She later got a job as a postal inspector, and finally started with the CIA in 2006.

On Tuesday, Spanberger sent a letter to CLF threatening legal action if it did not "destroy every copy ... of my unredacted SF86" and agree not to share any information obtained from it.

CLF responded by releasing a copy of a Freedom of Information request that America Rising Corp., a consultant to CLF, submitted to the National Personnel Records Center July 9. The center on July 12 forwarded that request to the Postal Service, which responded July 30 with Spanberger's "entire personnel folder." CLF contends the material provided included her SF86 form.

"By attempting to divert attention from the fact that she was employed by a Saudi government-funded high school that produced two students who were accused of preparing for suicide bombings, as well as a valedictorian who was convicted on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda terrorist network as part of a conspiracy to assassinate then-President George W. Bush, Abigail Spanberger is trying to stifle vital political speech about her qualifications for public office, which is protected under the First Amendment," CLF wrote in a reply to Spanberger's campaign.

The school later became highly controversial because a number of students went on to become terrorists. CLF notes that Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, the school's 1999 valedictorian, was convicted in 2005 on charges of providing material support to the al Qaeda and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Emily's List, the political group trying to elect more Democratic women, accused CLF of "weaponizing" Spanberger's security questionnaire.

"It's the season for political attacks and Abigail Spanberger knew they were coming. What's shocking is that Paul Ryan's super PAC, the Congressional Leadership Fund, would cross ethical lines in using information inappropriately obtained from her security clearance application and weaponizing it as a political attack," Christina Reynolds, a spokeswoman for the organization said in a statement. "The Republicans are clearly willing to do anything to win, but this shameful act is beyond the pale and every Republican currently benefiting from CLF's attack ads should have to answer for their actions."

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC; Hallums, Kimberly D - Washington, DC; Matyas, Emily A - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Media Monitoring FOIA Report 4th report
Attachments: media monitoring FOIA.docx

Please cross reference with the daily report you just gave me. Already added WaPo.

From: Partenheimer, David A - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:57 PM

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

Subject: FW: Media Monitoring FOIA Report 4th report

This report includes the Washington Post story.

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Jones, Darryl K - Washington, DC
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:16 PM
To: Graham, Jeannine - Washington, DC
Subject: OPF Requests Log.xlsx
Attachments: OPF Requests Log.xlsx

(b)(3).39 USC 410 (c)(2).(b)(6)

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Hallums, Kimberly D - Washington, DC (b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:28 PM
To: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC
Subject: Spanberger Articles
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.png

* San Francisco Chronicle (Pacific Area): Ex-CIA officer seeking Va. House seat says GOP obtained personnel file with sensitive data: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Ex-CIA-officer-seeking-Va-House-seat-says-GOP-13191582.php>

* NBC Raleigh Affiliate (Capital Metro Area): CIA Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application: <https://www.wral.com/cia-officer-turned-candidate-says-pac-obtained-her-security-application/17802482/>

* Washington Examiner: USPS released former Democratic candidate's security clearance application to Republican group: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/usps-released-former-democratic-candidates-security-clearance-application-to-republican-group>

* POLITICO: Gillum scores major win in Florida Democratic gubernatorial primary: <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-score/2018/08/29/gillum-scores-major-win-in-florida-democratic-gubernatorial-primary-328032>
"THE OPPO BOOK - Democrat Abigail Spanberger, who is running against GOP Rep. Dave Brat in Virginia's 7th District, is accusing the Congressional Leadership Fund of 'improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application.' The New York Times' Michael Tackett: Spanberger 'sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.'"

Kimberly Hallums
Social Media Analyst
Social Business Intelligence
Corporate Communications
United States Postal Service, HQ

(b)(3):39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

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[cid:image003.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<https://twitter.com/USPS>>

[cid:image004.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>>

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[cid:image006.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://youtube.com/usps>>

[cid:image007.jpg@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://instagram.com/uspostalservice>>

[cid:image008.png@01D08980.F37FC2C0] <<http://uspsblog.com/>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Matyas, Emily A - Washington, DC (b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:32 PM
To: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC
Subject: Updated Abigail Spanberger News Mentions
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

"The Times story left unclear whether it was really true that American Rising had successfully gotten the SF-86 from the Post Office."

* Washington Post: Ex-CIA officer running for Congress says GOP obtained her unredacted personnel file with sensitive information: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/ex-cia-officer-running-for-congress-says-gop-obtained-her-unredacted-personnel-file-with-sensitive-information/2018/08/29/453b4878-ab97-11e8-a8d7-0f63ab8b1370_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.390085317eac

· Wonkette: Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!: <https://www.wonkette.com/paul-ryans-pac-wants-to-fight-dirty-with-cia-agent-abigail-spanberger-lotsa-luck>

Best,

Emily A. Matyas
Social Media Analyst
Headquarters | USPS | 10th Floor Room 502
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington D.C., 20260

(b)(3);39 USC 410 (c)(2);(b)(6)

[cid:image001.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0]<<https://www.usps.com/>>[cid:image002.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0]<<https://www.facebook.com/usps>>[cid:image003.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0]<<https://twitter.com/uspshelp>>[cid:image004.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0]<<https://www.pinterest.com/uspsstamps/>> [cid:image005.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0]
<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/3694?trk=tyah&trkInfo=clickedVertical%3Acompany%2CclickedEntityId%3A3694%2Cidx%3A1-1-1%2CtarId%3A1468952165947%2Ctas%3Aus%20postal%20service>>
[cid:image006.png@01D1E1C9.C0DD74F0] <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX16-52bHvg>>

Chavannes-Battle, Nancy P - Washington, DC

From: Goldstein, Noah M - Washington, DC (b)(3), 39 USC 410 (c)(2), (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:35 PM
To: Levin, Mary B - Washington, DC
Subject: Abigail Spanberger news update

Abigail Spanberger news

* Alternet: Republican PAC Publishes Security Application of Former CIA Agent Running As Democrat in Virginia: <https://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/republican-pac-publishes-security-application-former-cia-agent-running-democrat>

* Washington Post: Ex-CIA officer running for Congress says GOP obtained her unredacted personnel file with sensitive information: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/ex-cia-officer-running-for-congress-says-gop-obtained-her-unredacted-personnel-file-with-sensitive-information/2018/08/29/453b4878-ab97-11e8-a8d7-0f63ab8b1370_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.70a1dac49080

* Breitbart: 'Deep State' Democrat Abigail Spanberger Challenging Dave Brat Exposed for Ties to Terrorism-Linked Group: <https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/08/29/deep-state-democrat-abigail-spanberger-challenging-dave-brat-exposed-ties-terrorism-linked-group/>

"CLF obtained this information through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in conjunction with America Rising, a Republican campaign research and rapid response group and through information obtained from the United States Postal Service (USPS) as a result of the request."

* Daily Beast: CIA Analyst Turned Candidate Fears She'll Get Doxxed Next: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/cia-analyst-turned-candidate-fears-shell-get-doxxed-next>

"The U.S. Postal Service provided Spanberger's information to America Rising, according to BuzzFeed. In response to extensive questions from The Daily Beast, David A. Partenheimer, a spokesperson for the Postal Service, said, "we're looking into the matter."

* The Week: Major GOP super PAC appears to be using CIA officer-turned-Democratic candidate's security form in campaign: <http://theweek.com/speedreads/792988/major-gop-super-pac-appears-using-cia-officerturnddemocratic-candidates-security-form-campaign>

* Clearance Jobs.com: What Was A Congressional Candidate's SF-86 Doing In the Hands of Her Political Opponents?: <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2018/08/29/what-was-a-congressional-candidates-sf-86-doing-in-the-hands-of-her-political-opponents/>

* Mother Jones: Republican Super PAC Tries to Tie Dem Candidate to "Terror High": <https://www.motherjones.com/kevin-drum/2018/08/republican-super-pac-tries-to-tie-dem-candidate-to-terror-high/>

* Mic: Today in Trump's America: Andrew Gillum wins stunning upset in Florida Democratic governor primary: <https://mic.com/articles/190988/today-in-trumps-america-andrew-gillum-wins-stunning-upset-in-florida-democratic-governor-primary#.zwylVznhZ>

"CLF claims it obtained the security clearance form through a Freedom of Information Act request with the U.S. Postal Service. But experts say such a form would never be given through a FOIA request, especially in an unredacted form CLF had it."

* San Francisco Chronicle (Pacific Area): Ex-CIA officer seeking Va. House seat says GOP obtained personnel file with sensitive data: <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Ex-CIA-officer-seeking-Va-House-seat-says-GOP-13191582.php>

* NBC Raleigh Affiliate (Capital Metro Area): CIA Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application: <https://www.wral.com/cia-officer-turned-candidate-says-pac-obtained-her-security-application/17802482/>

* Washington Examiner: USPS released former Democratic candidate's security clearance application to Republican group: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/usps-released-former-democratic-candidates-security-clearance-application-to-republican-group>

* POLITICO: Gillum scores major win in Florida Democratic gubernatorial primary: <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-score/2018/08/29/gillum-scores-major-win-in-florida-democratic-gubernatorial-primary-328032>

"THE OPPO BOOK - Democrat Abigail Spanberger, who is running against GOP Rep. Dave Brat in Virginia's 7th District, is accusing the Congressional Leadership Fund of 'improperly obtaining her entire federal security clearance application.' The New York Times' Michael Tackett: Spanberger 'sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion.'"

* Talking Points Memo: Let's Pull This Thread: <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/edblog/lets-pull-this-thread>

"The Times story left unclear whether it was really true that American Rising had successfully gotten the SF-86 from the Post Office."

* Wonkette: Paul Ryan's PAC Wants To Fight Dirty With CIA Agent Abigail Spanberger? Lotsa Luck!: <https://www.wonkette.com/paul-ryans-pac-wants-to-fight-dirty-with-cia-agent-abigail-spanberger-lotsa-luck>

A former CIA officer and Postal Inspector running for Congress says that her security clearance was handed to an opposing Super PAC by the Postal Service.

C.I.A. Officer-Turned-Candidate Says PAC Obtained Her Security Application

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/28/us/politics/cia-officer-house-election-super-pac.html>

"Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate challenging Representative Dave Brat of Virginia, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Corry Bliss, the executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, which has raised more than \$100 million to help Republicans in the midterm elections. She demanded that the super PAC destroy all copies of the form and agree to not use the information in any fashion."

"The super PAC released a statement on Tuesday strongly denying Ms. Spanberger's charge, saying that the document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request filed with the United States Postal Service by America Rising, a separate Republican-aligned research firm."

Sent from my iPhone

Reps. Connolly and Cummings Request IG Investigation into Postal Service's Reported Release of Congressional Candidate's SF-86 and Personnel File

Washington, D.C.—Today, Vice Ranking Member Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, sent a letter to the Acting Inspector General for the United States Postal Service requesting an investigation into the

Postal Service's reported release of a former employee and current Congressional candidate's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86). Press reports indicate that the unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and personnel file of Abigail Spanberger, the Democratic candidate for the Commonwealth of Virginia's 7th Congressional District, was released by the Postal Service to a conservative PAC through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Ms. Spanberger, an ex-CIA officer, is also a former employee of the Postal Service. The personal information obtained through the FOIA request was subsequently used by a Super PAC working against Ms. Spanberger.

"We write to request that your office conduct an investigation into the reported release by the United States Postal Service of a former employee's unredacted Standard Form 86 (SF-86) and any other related personal information that was released in violation of privacy statutes and other laws and regulations," the Ranking Members wrote.

They also wrote,

"The release of Ms. Spanberger's unredacted SF-86 to any individual or entity without her permission in violation of the law would call into question the Postal Service's processes for responding to FOIA requests."

The Members requested that the Office of the Inspector General address at least the following questions:

- (1) Did anyone at the Postal Service disclose Ms. Spanberger's SF-86? If so, who and what were the circumstances of the disclosure?
- (2) Did the disclosure of Ms. Spanberger's SF-86 or any other documents provided under America Rising's FOIA request violate any laws, regulations, or policies governing disclosure of such materials?
- (3) What, if any, information provided under America's Rising's FOIA request should not have been provided?
- (4) Why did the Postal Service not seek a privacy waiver from Ms. Spanberger before releasing her personnel file and SF-86 pursuant to a FOIA request?
- (5) Were any individuals in the Postal Service who handled America Rising's FOIA request aware of Ms. Spanberger's candidacy for Virginia's 7th Congressional District or the political nature of America Rising's request?
- (6) Does the Postal Service have adequate procedures in place to process FOIA requests and prevent disclosure of protected information?
- (7) What actions, if any, has Postal Service management taken to prevent unauthorized and impermissible disclosures of such information in the future?

The full letter follows and is available here<https://connolly.house.gov/UploadedFiles/2018-08-29.EEC_Connolly_to_USPS_OIG_re_SF86_Disclosure.pdf>.

August 29, 2018

Ms. Tammy L. Whitcomb
Acting Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street
Alexandria, VA 22209-2029